

Tang Sect 376

Chapter 376.1: Yuhao's Three Ultimate Techniques

They only returned to the hotel after surveying Sunrise City through the afternoon. After a discussion, they all went to rest. After dinner and freshening himself up, Huo Yuhao went out at night again. This time, he was focused on surveying what was underground. Although he couldn't use his Eye of Destiny, he could still detect up to fifty meters below ground. If there were problems, he would be able to discover some clues.

It wasn't a brilliant method, but he had no choice. Fortunately, Sunrise City wasn't like Radiant City. Otherwise, he needed at least half a year before he could completely survey the entire city with such a method.

As he walked, he tried to detect whatever there was underground. He continually used his spiritual power to carry out his detection. If it were any other soul master with a spiritual-type martial soul, his spiritual power wouldn't be able to last long even if he had such a detection ability.

As he walked, Huo Yuhao entered a bustling street. The two sides of the street were lined with stores, and brightly lit.

He meticulously detected what was going on underground. Suddenly, he seemed to think of something, and subconsciously lifted his head.

Not far in front of him, there was a lady who was dressed to the nines blocking his way.

Her looks weren't flattering – she wasn't even at Huo Yuhao's chest level, but her waist was three times larger than his. She was in a bright-green dress, which made her seem like a watermelon. There were even bright red flowers on her dress.

Her chubby face was extremely white, and she had applied even more powder on her face than normal. She had applied blood-red lipstick on her thick lips too. When she blocked Huo Yuhao, a gust of wind that carried the smell of her inferior-quality perfume greeted Huo Yuhao. The torrid smell almost caused him to bury his head in the ground.

Is this considered a biological weapon?

"Sir, do you want to come in to have fun?" She made a flirtatious gesture at Huo Yuhao and grinned at him, revealing her yellow teeth. Her voice sounded a little sharp and strained. She didn't sound like a guy or a lady. The more frightening thing was that there was a stench that came from her mouth. When it mixed with the perfume from her body...

The originally crowded street instantly became empty within a ten meter region. At least five or six people collapsed, and Huo Yuhao also stepped back a few steps. There was an astonished look on his face.

"Sir, come in and have fun. Our ladies are delicious and cheap. No, they are high-quality and cheap." The chubby lady pointed to a building which was shining with pink lights as she spoke.

The building wasn't very big, and seemed a little dilapidated. The pink lights made the place seem shady, while the stained walls made it seem like a cheap place.

“Alright, lead the way.” Huo Yuhao covered his nose and slowly stopped looking so stunned.

“Oh yes, sir. You have good taste.” As the chubby lady heard that Huo Yuhao wanted to enter, she was delighted, and pulled him over. However, he dodged her.

“Don’t touch me!” Huo Yuhao shouted.

“Alright, alright. Sir, follow me.” As she spoke, she was already walking towards the building. As she walked, she even turned back to Huo Yuhao occasionally and said, “Sir, you have great taste. You can call me Lingling.”

“Blargh...” Huo Yuhao couldn’t stand it anymore, and retch before gesturing to the fat lady, or rather, the madam. He was asking her to turn around and not talk to him. Her ‘biological weapon’ was simply too strong for him.

The madam twisted her thick, red lips and turned around unhappily. After she entered the building, she shouted at the top of her voice, “Girls, come and receive our customer!”

Suddenly, a bunch of ladies with thick makeup started to surface from different parts of the building.

Their dress followed Lingling’s style, which was extremely startling!

Huo Yuhao stopped in front of the building and suddenly asked the madam, “You’re called Lingling, am I right? Is it the same ‘Ling’ as ‘Feng Ling’?”

After hearing his words, she started trembling. She turned around and was filled with shock as she looked at Huo Yuhao, “You, you...”

“I’ll come here to have fun again.” After he finished speaking, Huo Yuhao turned around and fled. He used his Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track and quickly disappeared into the crowd without anyone noticing.

The madam was shocked as she watched where Huo Yuhao had disappeared. There was an indescribably complex look in her eyes.

As for the rest of the ladies that had appeared, they were all shouting tenderly as they chased Huo Yuhao. They were indignant, as they finally had a customer, but he ran away. However, Lingling just stood in place without moving. It was as if she had lost her soul.

Huo Yuhao fled more than two streets before he slowed down. He had confirmed what he needed to confirm. Yes, he recognized that madam. Even though he wasn’t familiar with her, he was certain that she was actually a him!

Yes, it was a him, not a her!

That person was likely to be Feng Ling, whom he had met before. Feng Ling had left a deep impression in Huo Yuhao’s mind because of his stinky mouth and his saliva that could even cause smoke to fume when it landed on the ground. His lack of hygiene wasn’t something an ordinary person could compare to.

Feng Ling should be the young master of the Heaven's Gate. Huo Yuhao wasn't even sure which empire the Heaven's Gate came from, but it shouldn't be very strong. Furthermore, it was unlikely that the Heaven's Gate was from the Sun Moon Empire.

Feng Ling tried to take liberties of Wang Dong'er when they met the Heaven's Gate outside Radiant City. Eventually, he was taught a lesson by Ji Juechen, and fled with his sect.

Huo Yuhao also recalled that Feng Ling was the young master of the sect.

No matter how unhygienic he was, he possessed at least four rings, since he could compete in the tournament. However, he was now in a medium-sized city as a madam. He had even changed his gender.

What was going on?

If he wasn't a member of the Sun Moon Empire, he had to be one of the hostages. However, he didn't lose his freedom, but his gender and identity had changed. This situation had to be...

Earlier, Huo Yuhao had tried to test him when he thought of all these. He knew that he was right when he saw the expression on Lingling's face.

It was too important of a clue. If he followed the clues that came from Lingling, he might be able to find out everything he wanted to. Of course, he might have alarmed the other party with his words earlier. However, it wasn't too much of a problem. After all, Feng Ling didn't know who he was. It wasn't easy to find someone like him in Sunrise City either.

Huo Yuhao stopped at a remote corner, and the light around him started to distort. Very soon, he camouflaged himself with his surrounding environment and disappeared.

The high-altitude surveillance soul tools in the sky could detect visual targets, but they weren't equipped with infrared rays or soul power detectors. Current soul tool technology had yet to reach such a standard.

After he camouflaged himself using his Imitation, Huo Yuhao didn't rush to leave. He quietly hid in a dark corner and waited.

Although he had left, his Spiritual Detection was still working on Feng Ling.

Feng Ling soon recovered from his shock and returned to the streets, where he started to solicit customers once again.

However, his image was too disgusting, and no one could be convinced by him. It was very difficult to imagine why the boss of this low-class brothel would let him make a fool out of himself. The only explanation was that the boss was sick in the mind.

Huo Yuhao used his Spiritual Detection to observe Feng Ling meticulously. Very soon, he discovered that Feng Ling's soul power undulations had yet to disappear. This meant that he was still a four-ringed Soul Ancestor. After he heard someone call his name, his expression kept on changing and he seemed a little unsettled, and even astonished.

This was an important clue to Huo Yuhao. This is why he wasn't anxious at all, and continued to wait silently.

Feng Ling only returned to the cheap brothel when it was late into the night, and the shops along the streets were already closed for business. Very soon, the tempting pink lights were extinguished, and everything seemed to turn silent.

Not long afterward, a side door of the brothel opened slightly, and a stumpy figure squeezed out. Feng Ling was no longer wearing the bright-green dress from earlier. He wore a simpler gown, and observed the outside of the brothel before he snuck out. After this, he quickly walked towards a certain direction.

Huo Yuhao also moved at the same time. He silently tailed Feng Ling, but kept a few hundred meters' distance from him.

Feng Ling passed the streets and alleys before stopping in front of a pointed building after walking for fifteen minutes.

This building seemed a little worn down, and there weren't any signs on it. The door was unlatched, and Feng Ling entered the building by pushing the door open.

Huo Yuhao had been watching him very closely, and thus he could clearly feel Feng Ling's fear when he entered the building.

He extended his senses and continued to watch Feng Ling with his spiritual power. However, Huo Yuhao quickly retracted his spiritual power soon after. That was because he was shocked to find out there was a strong undulation of spiritual power coming from this building. While this undulation of spiritual power didn't signify that the other party's spiritual power was greater than Huo Yuhao's, the other party might still detect Huo Yuhao's presence.

Huo Yuhao crept forward towards the unlatched door and peeked into the building through a slight gap.

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It was pitch-dark inside, and the air seemed to be much dirtier than outside. Even with Huo Yuhao's vision, he couldn't see what was going on inside clearly.

He wasn't surprised by this. Instead, he broke out into a slight smile that carried a trace of cold intent.

At this point, he heard a tragic scream resonating from inside. It sounded very pathetic, but it wasn't loud. If not for the fact that he was at the door, he wouldn't have heard the scream.

At this point, he sensed that the strong spiritual undulations coming from inside had retracted.

He couldn't give up on such an opportunity. He unleashed his Spiritual Detection and started to survey the inside of the building.

There was a spacious hall behind the door, which was pitch-black right now. The polluted air came from some unknown origin. For safety purposes, Huo Yuhao controlled his Spiritual Detection to follow the sides of the rooms and surveyed one round before he entered another hall at the back through the last door.

Tragic screams started to reverberate before the voice of a person sounded.

“Lowly fatso. I’ll whip you to death, I’ll whip you to death, hahaha! Keep screaming. Scream louder.” A hysterical, hoarse voice, extremely awful voice sounded. As this voice sounded, the air rippled slightly.

Huo Yuhao’s Spiritual Detection wasn’t like before. He could clearly sense how strong the owner of this voice was.

It’s definitely an evil soul master. It has to be.

From his observations earlier, along with how he saw Feng Ling soliciting customers on the streets as a madam, he guessed that this sort of perverted doing must have been committed by an evil soul master. What he was seeing now verified his guess. However, this evil soul master that was abusing Feng Ling had at least eight rings. Huo Yuhao was able to make an accurate judgment from the spiritual undulations he released as he lost control of his emotions.

This building was weird. Earlier, he had scanned this direction using his Spiritual Detection.

However, he didn’t discover anything. There were indeed members of the Holy Ghost Church here, but the number of evil soul masters was unknown.

Huo Yuhao extended his Spiritual Detection carefully towards the direction of the voices. Very soon, he saw a bloody scene that made him nauseous.

It was a dark, circular hall. There were many broken bodies on the floor, and organs were strewn everywhere. All the blood on the floor had already dried up and turned purplish-black.

Feng Ling hung in the center of this hall, and there was a person decked in a black robe beneath him. This person released black fog from his body and was holding a bone whip, with which he whipped Feng Ling unceasingly. There were a few fat people squirming in a corner not far from them. They appeared very dreary, and seemed to be on the verge of death.

Huo Yuhao’s killing intent was piqued as he saw this scene. This despicable evil soul master must have abused and killed many people, otherwise this place wouldn’t look like a hell on earth!

At this point, his Spiritual Detection seemed to jerk, as if it had been shocked by electricity. The person in black who was whipping Feng Ling turned around and roared in fury, “Who——”

As he turned around, Huo Yuhao realized that it was actually a she. Her face was extremely pale to the point where it was scary, although it was evident that her original appearance was pretty decent. However, her eyes were bloodshot, and there was a terrifying feel about her now.

A strong wave of spiritual power was unleashed from her body, and her eight soul rings – two yellow, two purple and four black – surfaced at this moment. A huge, black shadow appeared behind her, and her fierce look caused the surrounding spiritual undulations to become stronger.

Even with Huo Yuhao’s spiritual cultivation, this sudden change caused him to turn a little dizzy and he quickly retracted his spiritual power before fleeing immediately.

Just as he burst off, a black figure had already rushed out from the door, and a low-pitched roar echoed in the air. This black figure knew exactly where Huo Yuhao had escaped to, and quickly pursued him.

In fact, Huo Yuhao wasn't careless at all. He was extremely cautious, but luck wasn't on his side. After he was discovered and pursued, he realized that he had met a spiritual-type evil soul master. In addition, her martial soul was similar to an Avenging Spirit. She was a little like Na Na, but she was much stronger.

Because of this, the gap between their spiritual power wasn't as great as he had expected. When his Spiritual Detection got too close, she immediately sensed something amiss, and discovered traces of it. Then, she locked onto his body as she followed the trail of his spiritual power and pursued him. As a result, his Imitation was unable to help him escape her pursuit.

However, they were both almost invisible because of their spiritual power, and wouldn't be detected by the high-altitude surveillance soul tools in the sky.

What do I do now??Huo Yuhao was quickly assessing his situation right now and thinking of a plan of action.?Run??Given his current cultivation, how could he possibly outrun an eight-ringed Soul Douluo??Since you are pursuing me, then...?He thought of the bloody scene he saw earlier, and a cold look flashed in his eyes. His killing intent also became stronger.

It had to be said that Huo Yuhao was rather good at escaping her pursuit. If he escaped in a straight line, he would definitely be caught after a while. However, he made turns around the streets and alleys.

While this evil soul master was pursuing him through his spiritual power, he could escape her pursuit, given the strength of his spiritual cultivation, if he used his Eye of Destiny. However, he didn't choose to do so. He only kept on unleashing his spiritual power to interfere with her judgment so that she would make slight errors. While she kept on pursuing him, she wasn't able to catch him.

Two invisible figures were moving quickly and making rounds in Sunrise City just like that. They were so quick that seeing them even made one breathless.

Slowly, the advantage of this evil soul master's cultivation was taking effect. She was getting closer and closer to Huo Yuhao.

Suddenly, she peered into the sky and let out an inaudible cry. When she let out this cry, the sky within several hundred square meters around her started to distort. At this instant, all the high-altitude surveillance soul tools that surveilled this region weren't able to function properly.

The civilians on the streets weren't affected, but Huo Yuhao felt as if he had been hammered. He only heard a piercing scream echoing deep in his spirit. At this instant, he felt that his head was about to blow apart. The tremendous pain he felt numbed his entire spirit.

This is...

Huo Yuhao was wide-eyed in shock.

It shouldn't be a soul skill, as he didn't sense any undulations from the soul rings of this evil soul master. It had to be a fighting technique that she had invented herself.

This was a fighting technique that Huo Yuhao had never seen before. It wasn't just unleashed through pure spiritual power, and it wasn't a combination of spiritual and soul power either. Rather, it was formed using spiritual power and soundwaves.

Through her immense spiritual power, she managed to enhance the strength of her spirit, which enabled her to influence Huo Yuhao's spirit through terrifying soundwaves. It was extremely frightening! If not for Huo Yuhao's great spiritual power that spurred him to instinctively defend himself, his head would have blown apart by now.

Simply put, it was like a terrifying scream had appeared in Huo Yuhao's mind. He tolerated the numb feeling for now and leapt over a wall.

When this evil soul master unleashed her attack, she seemed to experience a temporary delay in her movements, and wasn't able to exploit this opportunity to catch up to Huo Yuhao.

"Ah!" She groaned. Evidently, she was very confident in her fighting technique. However, she was confused about why it didn't achieve the effect she had expected.

Huo Yuhao could tell her cultivation, and thus it was natural that she could tell what his cultivation was too. She could sense that his cultivation wasn't very high even with his immense spiritual power, and knew that he was inferior to her. In her opinion, she should have destroyed him with her previous attack. Even if he wasn't killed, he should have been critically injured. However, Huo Yuhao only stalled for a moment before he escaped towards a residential area.

Such a weak soul master is able to possess such great spiritual power? Interesting!

She revealed a grin on her face. As she pointed her toes to the ground, she drifted up like a specter before she charged downward like a bolt of lightning.

Huo Yuhao was still affected by the scream earlier, and was evidently moving much slower now. Furthermore, it seemed like his Imitation was getting weaker and weaker, and his figure was starting to show.

"Go and die. Grudge!" A strange voice that was low-pitched and hoarse, yet sharp, sounded in Huo Yuhao's ear.

Following this, a strange, illusory projection appeared above Huo Yuhao's head. This projection was white, but only Huo Yuhao could sense it. Suddenly, he felt his spirit getting colder, and he started to shudder.

His spiritual sea started to rage with waves, and he felt that he was about to lose control of his body. A crazy thought also started to rise internally.

However, he didn't continue to flee at this moment. On the contrary, he stopped and turned around.

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The evil soul master saw a pair of bright, clear eyes that carried a deep gaze. Following this, a dim golden projection rose from Huo Yuhao's body. As golden lights flashed, her Grudge in the air was crushed.

"Ah, interesting." She drifted to the ground and didn't continue attacking. She stared at Huo Yuhao with a strange look in her bloodshot eyes.

"Spiritual-type soul master? Very rare. Your spiritual cultivation has long surpassed your actual cultivation." She seemed to become like a normal person right now, apart from her looks.

Huo Yuhao replied, "That's right. You must be a spiritual-type soul master too. However, the paths that we are taking are evidently different. Your martial soul should be an Avenging Spirit?"

"Hehehehehe..." She let out a shrilling laugh, which was filled with hysteria and sarcasm.

"Avenging Spirit? Is my martial soul an Avenging Spirit? No, you are wrong. My martial soul isn't an Avenging Spirit."

"No?" Huo Yuhao was the shocked one right now. "What is it then?"

She opened her eyes wide and replied, "My martial soul is called the Spirit of Retribution."

"Spirit of Retribution? Is there such a martial soul?" Huo Yuhao couldn't believe what she was saying.

"Why isn't there such a martial soul? I created it myself. Isn't it magical?! Hehehehe!" She was laughing, but her laughter sounded very forlorn.

Huo Yuhao squinted. "Self-created martial soul? I know. Your martial soul is mutated, isn't it?"

"No, no, no!" She replied with three 'nos' and her forlorn voice turned callous. "Have you seen a mutated martial soul that only awakened when the soul master was fifteen? No, you haven't. My martial soul came from hatred, a deep hatred. When my hatred reached its extreme, my Spirit of Retribution appeared. I killed her, I killed her, I killed her! I want revenge! I want revenge! All of you can go and die!"

She suddenly went berserk, and mimicked a lifting action. Following this, her second, third and fifth soul rings lit up at the same time.

A weird white glow spread from her body, and countless Grudges appeared above Huo Yuhao and started to spread in all directions.

At this point, she saw a soul ring shining. It was a clear-white soul ring that flashed with a dim golden color. When its light spread from Huo Yuhao's body, his eyes started to shine brightly, and turned shiny and translucent. Purplish-gold light that seemed to be illuminated by countless streaks of starlight flashed before disappearing.

"Ah—" The female evil soul master's head suddenly rocked back, and she even staggered a few steps. The huge avenging spirit that had been drifting behind her all this while was dissipated before it reformed. The Grudges that she had released earlier were also immediately crushed.

Spiritual Shock! It was Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Shock in the concrete-immaterial realm.

Huo Yuhao's body shook slightly. After all, this evil soul master's cultivation was too strong, far superior to his. Although Huo Yuhao had an advantage in terms of his spiritual power, a fight between soul masters didn't just involve spiritual power. Moreover, her spiritual world was filled with a grim sense of evil. While Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Shock struck her, he also suffered from a backlash. Of course, she was hurt much more than him.

As he stepped forward with his left leg, the look in his eyes suddenly turned gentle. A golden projection appeared behind him before embracing him and fusing with his body.

Huo Yuhao's gaze turned gentle. At this moment, his eyes didn't reflect the look of the evil soul master in front of him. There was only a look of remembrance in his eyes right now.

Remembrance was a very magical thing. Right now, Huo Yuhao unleashed his Fist of Remembrance, which contained a surging feeling of remembrance!

A fist with an indescribable color, but which yet seemed to shine with a glow that encompassed all colors, was unleashed towards the evil soul master.

At this point, the evil soul master was still suffering under the effects of Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Shock. However, she was still a Soul Douluo, and it wouldn't be so easy to curb her.

Just as Huo Yuhao's Fist of Remembrance was about to strike her, her body suddenly dissipated like a specter. She changed into countless black projections that spread around. Each projection had the same look as her.

However, a sharp scream sounded at this point. All the black projections re-gathered and appeared where she was originally. It was as if she had been struck by Huo Yuhao's fist.

Her body was covered by a layer of shiny light as she screamed. Her eyes were filled with disbelief.

"This, this is..."

Huo Yuhao didn't say anything. He exerted a force with his front left foot and it seemed like he was being lifted up. He raised his right fist and pointed his middle and index fingers forward. The glow that seemed to encompass all colors suddenly shot into the sky and turned into a sword light that was more than ten meters long.

Huo Yuhao's expression also changed. The gentle look in his eyes turned into pain. He pursed his lips tightly, and he appeared to have teared up. His mind seemed to have gone to another world too.

The majestic sword light descended from the sky. One's swordplay could only reach the peak if he handled his relationship well. This time, it was Huo Yuhao's Sword of Longing, a sword which would never be forgotten!

The evil soul master was in a daze as she looked at the sword light that was coming down. Her state of mind was already affected because of Huo Yuhao's fist earlier.

As she was also a spiritual-type soul master, she was also more influenced than any other opponent. Her Spirit of Retribution relied on immense hatred. However, she was forced into a state of remembrance by Huo Yuhao.

"Ah——" Her sense of danger roused her instincts. She lifted her hands, and her seventh soul ring shone. The huge avenging spirit behind her drifted forward and fused with her body. She turned into a specter, but she didn't attack or resist Huo Yuhao's attack. Instead, she turned around and fled. She wanted to escape from the sword light that was crashing down towards her.

However, how could she escape Huo Yuhao's Sword of Longing after she was struck by his Fist of Remembrance?

Huo Yuhao's Sword of Longing immediately tore her avenging spirit to pieces. Wherever this sword light passed, spots of bright light were left behind in the air. It was as if tears of remembrance had been scattered in the air.

The crushed Spirit of Retribution was re-formed. However, it was no longer in the state of a Martial Soul True Body. Rather, it regained the appearance of the evil soul master.

Huo Yuhao should be proud of his Sword of Longing. Without his sixth soul ring, he managed to force an eight-ringed Soul Douluo out of her Martial Soul True Body using his self-created fighting skill. This showed how strong he was.

More astonishingly, the female evil soul master's eyes were no longer bloodshot, and the look in her eyes became similar to Huo Yuhao's.

Huo Yuhao had gone into closed-door cultivation for several months, and fused his various abilities. He had perfectly combined his spiritual and soul power through his emotions, forming his three great skills. No matter how strong his opponent was, she would be affected by him if she wasn't emotionally resilient enough to resist the invasion of his spiritual power.

These three great skills were mainly controlled using Huo Yuhao's spiritual power, as his spiritual power was far superior to his soul power. When he was able to increase his soul power to a comparable level and unleash these three skills, he would be able to establish himself as one of the strongest soul masters on the continent.

After unleashing his sword, Huo Yuhao was already crying. He pulled his palm back to his waist before flipping it over. He formed the shape of a heart in the air and all the lights were retracted at this instant. There was now an additional heart at the center of his palm. It was a golden heart. Even the most dazzling gem in this world couldn't compare to the glow from this golden heart.

This golden heart represented a sincere heart. It was filled with eternal love and remembrance.

Huo Yuhao shut his eyes. At this moment, there was only one figure in his mind. There was no other person or thing that could affect his state of mind. He was already deeply immersed in his thoughts of Wang Dong'er.

Dong'er, Dong'er, Dong'er!

He was gently calling in his heart. He seemed to see Wang Dong'er, and how she sacrificed her life for him without any hesitation. Dong'er, Dong'er...

As he called, that shining, golden heart slowly moved as he pushed his palm forward.

In the sky, the clouds moved, and thunder rumbled. After an inky blackness filled the sky, it suddenly lit up. The lights came from an unknown origin, but they formed a heart shape.

The signals from the three closest three surveillance soul tools were scrambled. After this, their formation arrays blew apart, and they were destroyed.

That huge and seemingly boundless heart resonated with the golden heart on Huo Yuhao's palm.

Behind the heart in the sky, there seemed to be a beautiful face watching everything that was happening on the ground with a gentle gaze. nOVE.ℓB)1n

As Huo Yuhao pushed his palm out, and the two hearts resonated with each other, it seemed as if countless flowing lights shone behind Huo Yuhao's back. There were only memories of him and Wang Dong'er within those flowing lights.

Huo Yuhao's Haodong Palm, a palm which would last eternally!

This was the last strike of Huo Yuhao's three great skills. It was also his first time unleashing this strike with all his heart.

He didn't know it yet, but he had already established his position in the world of soul masters as he unleashed this palm.

"Chi——" When his palm was imprinted on the evil soul master's body, she didn't experience any tremendous movement because of his strike as she came charging towards it.

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The countless flowing lights behind Huo Yuhao were imprinted on her body along with Huo Yuhao's palm. Instantly, her eyes were no longer bloodshot, and there was only a clear look in her eyes. Her pale-white face even started to flush slightly, and she revealed a relieved smile on her face.

"Thanks." Her voice was no longer hoarse. Instead, it was captivating, as if she came from another world.

Huo Yuhao shut his eyes as his tears flowed uncontrollably. He didn't even hear her voice. At this moment, both of them were immersed in their own worlds after a life and death fight.

"Remembrance is a magical thing. I miss my mommy and daddy. Why did you die so early? Why didn't you protect me? Why did you let that fatso abuse me and leave me humiliated in front of the countless people in that cold basement? They destroyed my body under the instigation of that fatso, ravaging my heart and staining my spirit. I was only fifteen years old then."

"Hatred kept me alive and enhanced my spirit to another level. My Spirit of Retribution was awakened as a result. I hate those greedy and lecherous men, and I hate that fatso who tore me to pieces. I want to slaughter them, but I'm in so much pain."

"Am I finally released? You let me see the light, sense what remembrance is and witness a love that's yet to appear in my spirit. It seems like not everything in this world is dirty. There are still pure and clean things. Thank you, thank you for letting me sense the intense love you have for that unknown person. You cleansed my heart and let me know what release is. Thank you, I'm very happy, I'm very happy..."

Black gas started to flow out of her pores, and she started to age quickly. In an instant, she became very shriveled.

As the black gas flowed behind her back, it slowly formed a human shape before it gradually dissipated. Her body slowly collapsed before she began to crumble. Eventually, she turned into a pile of dust, and disappeared with the wind.

Huo Yuhao was still in his earlier posture after unleashing his palm. It was just that the lights on his body had disappeared, as had the huge heart in the sky. He stood in place without moving a single inch. However, he could still affect everything around him with his emotions.

Six figures silently appeared around him. Every one of them revealed a different look in their eyes. The only similarity between them was the tears that flowed from their eyes.

It wasn't just them. Within a region that spanned one thousand meters in diameter, all living creatures were tearing up. They had all been influenced by Huo Yuhao's emotions.

Xu Sanshi silently walked behind Huo Yuhao before lifting his rigid body and wiping his tears. He sighed and turned around before he left.

The other five quickly followed him.

"Why is it like that?" Nan Qiuqiu whispered to Ye Guyi.

Ye Guyi laughed bitterly. "I don't know either. Why is it like that? He, he actually..."

Ji Juechen was normally very cold, but there seemed to be great changes to him right now. He seemed lost, and his hands were trembling.

"Am I wrong? Am I wrong? Is it only love that can improve my sword intent to its peak? I gave up all romantic emotions to focus on my cultivation. Was I wrong? Do I really need love too so that I can become stronger? Why do I seem to lag behind you every time I feel that I've surpassed you?"

Why didn't Huo Yuhao use the strength of his Eye of Destiny to break free from the lock on of that evil soul master? It was because his original intention was to kill her.

If he was discovered and he didn't kill her, they would start a city-wide search for them. Furthermore, it was extremely beneficial for them to get rid of such a soul master. With her cultivation, she was likely one of the leaders of the Holy Ghost Church in Sunrise City.

That was why Huo Yuhao set a trap to kill her. He drew her over, knowing that his teammates were already hiding in ambush over here.

An eight-ringed Soul Douluo was indeed very strong. However, his teammates were some of the most outstanding soul masters in the younger generation too!

The Eternal Defense, Xu Sanshi, as well as the Origin of Destruction, He Caitou, were both close to Rank 70. More importantly, there was Ye Guyi, who had the Holy Angel, which could curb evil soul masters. Along with Ji Juechen, Nan Qiuqiu and Jing Ziyan, the seven of them should be highly confident in killing their opponent.

Through his Spiritual Detection, Huo Yuhao had already planned this trap perfectly. His original goal was to use his three great skills to restrain his opponent before Ji Juechen and Ye Guyi unleashed an all-out attack to deal her a lethal blow. The other four would support the two of them.

However, no one would have expected Huo Yuhao to destroy this extremely strong Soul Douluo who possessed the Spirit of Retribution using his three great skills. She was even considered one of the top-ranked individuals in the Holy Ghost Church.

While the Spirit of Retribution was highly reliant on emotions, which made her susceptible to Huo Yuhao's three great skills, the effect of Huo Yuhao's attacks still showed that his three great skills were extremely strong.

They were terrifying skills that completely exceeded his current cultivation. When the weather changed, his teammates were all already stunned. All of them could clearly sense his love and yearning for Wang Dong'er.

When he unleashed his Haodong Palm, he completely destroyed his opponent with his emotions. But his soul power had been completely drained at this instant. This was his first time unleashing this attack that encompassed the true meaning behind his emotions, and it was extremely astonishing!

After fifteen minutes, the military sealed the region they had fought in. However, they weren't able to find anything.

A tall and huge general who was in charge of investigating this situation asked his subordinate, "What happened?"

"I don't know either..."

"Bullshit, the entire city saw what happened earlier. What's with that huge heart in the sky? Why did the weather suddenly change? How dare you tell me that you don't know anything! Do you know how expensive those three surveillance soul tools were?"

"However, nothing really happened. There were no civilian casualties. It's just that an abnormal number of people started to cry within this region. They claimed that they did so because they were touched."

"Trash, go and investigate further."

"Yes!"

In a hotel room.

Huo Yuhao was quietly lying on his bed, still in his previous posture. Xu Sanshi stood up from his bedside.

"Third senior, how is he?" Nan Qiuqiu asked Xu Sanshi.

Xu Sanshi laughed bitterly. "Not bad. He must have unleashed more strength than he could control. Furthermore, imagine how emotionally affected he must be to be able to unleash such a strong undulation of emotions! I know – he showed mercy on me when we sparred in the sect. Otherwise, I wouldn't have been able to handle those first two strikes of his, given my current cultivation. Sometimes I wonder why he's so freakish. The strength of his self-created fighting skills has already surpassed that of his soul skills."

He Caitou sighed and said, "Don't be envious of him. Are you willing to exchange Nannan for three fighting skills?"

Xu Sanshi glared at him and said, "Why don't you use yourself as an example? Of course I'm not willing to. Nannan is special."

He Caitou chortled and said, "Alright, she's not here. You don't have to show how loyal you are. When can Yuhao recover?"

Xu Sanshi said, "He's in a strange state. His soul power has clearly been drained, but he's recovering at an extremely rapid speed. It's as if he has a Milk Bottle in his body that's nourishing him. He should recover after resting for a few more hours. It's just that I'm not sure how long his spirit will take to recover. The strength of his skills comes from the connection between his spiritual power and his emotions. I don't think it'll be easy for him to recover from his emotional state, given how invested in his emotions he was earlier. When he wakes up, I'll need to warn him not to use these three skills so easily. Otherwise, he'll go crazy."

They were all elite students from Shrek Academy. Although they couldn't completely understand what was going on with Huo Yuhao's body, they could roughly gauge what was going on from the state Huo Yuhao was in when he unleashed his three great skills and through their understanding of him.

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He Caitou turned serious. "Yes, we must stop him from using these three skills so often in the future. They're strong, but there's no follow-up, and they affect his emotions too much. I wonder if he'll be able to use these three skills if Dong'er wakes up."

Xu Sanshi sighed and said, "These skills are better not used even though they are strong. I hope Dong'er can wake up sooner and return to his side. Little junior's life is too bitter."

"Yes." He Caitou nodded in agreement.

Ye Guyi stood behind all of them and silently watched Huo Yuhao. After that, she turned around and was the first to leave.

Nan Qiuqiu was stunned, and quickly followed her out.

Chapter 377.2: Dispelling, Clues, Prison of Water

"Sister Guyi, are you alright?" Nan Qiuqiu followed Ye Guyi back to their room and asked her concernedly.

Ye Guyi shook her head gently and said, "I'm fine. I shouldn't have been curious about that guy!"

Nan Qiuqiu's eyes opened wide, and she asked, "Have you really fallen for him?"

Ye Guyi remained silent for a moment before saying, "Earlier, I hid my liking for him. He's a complicated fellow. His abilities are far superior to others of the same age. However, I pity him for some reason. He has too many burdens. I don't want to give him more trouble."

Nan Qiuqiu was in disbelief. "Sister Guyi, have you also fallen into his trap? The more you say, the more I feel that..."

Ye Guyi smiled and said, "So what if I've fallen into his trap? I'm willing to fall for such a man! However, I rationally told myself that it's impossible for anything to happen between us. I won't continue to fall further. Do you know? When he unleashed his palm strike earlier, I fell in love with him. However, I also chose to give it up."

Nan Qiuqiu smacked her own forehead and said, "Forget it, I can't understand it. However, you must take care of your own heart! Did you see what happened to Wang Qiu'er? She's in torment because of her love for him. We don't even know where she is now. In his heart, there's only Wang Dong'er. You mustn't do anything stupid."

Huo Yuhao took two days to fully recover. He woke up on the second morning, but he was still immersed in his emotions, and couldn't detach himself from them. It took another day before he fully recovered.

In these two days, the atmosphere in Sunrise City became very tense. There was also a person staying in the hotel that Huo Yuhao and the rest were at. This person was Feng Ling.

After drawing the evil soul master away, Huo Yuhao told everyone about Feng Ling's condition through his Spiritual Detection. After things were more peaceful outside, Jing Ziyan went to save him.

The building that Feng Ling was abused in seemed to only contain the evil soul master that Huo Yuhao had killed. In addition, there weren't any other survivors apart from Feng Ling.

After Feng Ling was brought back, He Caitou and Xu Sanshi took turns to watch over him. He was still in a daze now, and wasn't in a right state of mind.

"What's wrong? Are you okay now?" Xu Sanshi asked Huo Yuhao, who was sitting cross-legged on his bed.

Huo Yuhao nodded, and there was an apologetic look on his face. "Third senior, I'm sorry."

Xu Sanshi laughed and said, "There's no need to be apologetic. Although you shouldn't have lost control since you were commanding all of us, it was a special situation. That evil soul master was of the rare spiritual type. I asked Ye Guyi too. She said she wasn't confident of curbing her either. She was an eight-ringed Soul Douluo, and thus it was right for you to unleash all your strength against her. It's just that you don't understand yourself well enough. You must keep this in mind. The side effects of your attacks are too strong. From the look in your eyes, I can tell that you are not fully clear-headed yet."

"Alright." Huo Yuhao nodded. Just like Xu Sanshi had said, his mind had yet to fully recover. Occasionally, Wang Dong'er's figure would flash across his mind.

"That evil soul master would've been extremely deadly if she had unleashed all her strength. She had her self-created fighting skill that caused my spiritual sea to be affected. After that, I lost control of my emotions when I unleashed my fighting skill because of that too. Otherwise, the strength of my three skills shouldn't have been so great, and I would've been able to control my body after I finished attacking. At least I'll be able to move. I'll take note in the future."

Xu Sanshi sounded very earnest as he said, "Yuhao, it's best to use your three skills less often. They are indeed very strong, but their influence on you is also very great. In my opinion, they are the products of your lovesickness. You can't rely on them too much. Otherwise, your own abilities will fall significantly once Dong'er awakes, along with the fact that these three skills will disappear."

Huo Yuhao shuddered in his heart. He knew that Xu Sanshi was right. If Wang Dong'er was by his side right now, would he be able to use those three skills? Definitely not. They were built on his remembrance of Wang Dong'er, as well as his yearning for her. Not to even mention Wang Dong'er

appearing beside him, he wouldn't be able to use those three skills if he heard Wang Dong'er had awoken.

After nodding his head, Huo Yuhao said, "Third senior, how's Feng Ling?"

After he mentioned Feng Ling, Xu Sanshi suddenly revealed a weird look on his face. "That..." He coughed.

Huo Yuhao was confused and asked, "What's wrong?"

Xu Sanshi sighed and replied, "That evil soul master was simply too sick in the mind. Feng Ling is completely crippled. He suffered from a strong curse-type soul skill, and was even castrated. He was also fed some unknown medicine, and his chest has developed like a woman's. He's neither a guy nor a girl. I suspect that he was kept to disgust people."

After hearing what Xu Sanshi said, Huo Yuhao recalled what that evil soul master mentioned earlier, especially what she said before she died.

While Huo Yuhao was immersed in his remembrance of Wang Dong'er then, he still remembered what that evil soul master said to him. His expression turned serious as he recalled what she said now.

"That evil soul master was also a poor soul. She turned evil because of hatred. She disregarded everything because of her desire for revenge."

"She didn't realize that she was making more people suffer like she did before by venting her pain on others. Let's go and take a look at Feng Ling and see if there's a way of saving him."

Huo Yuhao followed Xu Sanshi to a single room. He Caitou was standing at the door, and he also wore a weird expression on his face. It seemed like he was unwilling to enter the room.

"Yuhao, are you fine now?" After seeing Huo Yuhao, He Caitou went over to pat his shoulder.

"Second senior, I'm fine. How's Feng Ling?"

He Caitou replied, "He's still in a daze."

Huo Yuhao entered the room. When he saw Feng Ling, he couldn't help but sigh. n)(Ov**ELB**1n

His clothes were torn and damaged in several areas, revealing his flesh and the whip marks on his body. His hair extremely messy, and only his thick lips were striking.

After seeing someone enter, he immediately squirmed to the side of his bed. His whole body was trembling.

Huo Yuhao walked to his bedside and tried his best to tolerate his stench. "Feng Ling, do you still remember me? We met outside Radiant City before."

"You, you, you..." After seeing Huo Yuhao, Feng Ling appeared to be in a daze, and was stunned. He seemed to recall something, "Did you call my name that day?"

“Yes, it’s me.” Huo Yuhao gently released his spiritual power as he spoke. He stimulated Feng Ling’s brain. This stimulation was similar to his Spiritual Shock, but it was only a fraction of the strength of his Spiritual Shock. This slight stimulation helped Feng Ling out of his confused state.

Feng Ling’s eyes turned clearer. “Oh, oh, who are you? Who are you?”

Huo Yuhao smiled and replied, “I’m Huo Yuhao. I’m here to save people like you who have been captured. Do you know where the rest are?”

After hearing his question, Feng Ling’s body jerked, and there was a look of fury in his eyes along with the confusion.

“I, I...”

“No worries. Take your time to think and remember.” Huo Yuhao’s voice became gentler, but he released stronger spiritual power.

Under Huo Yuhao’s stimulation, Feng Ling started to experience fury, fear, confusion and torment, as well as other emotions. He opened his mouth, revealing his set of yellow teeth, and released his stinky breath. Huo Yuhao had no choice but to form a layer of icy fog to isolate his breath.

After a while, Feng Ling started bawling as he sprawled himself on his bed.

“She, she harmed me. She harmed me and turned me into a woman. She turned me into a woman! I’m no longer a man. She abused me everyday. She hit me every day to vent. She even forced me to work as a madam at that dirty place. My life was worse than death!”

Huo Yuhao stood up and didn’t make a sound. He only watched Feng Ling vent his emotions silently. He sighed in his heart as he empathized with Feng Ling. However, he was sure of one thing – Feng Ling didn’t mean it when he said his life was worse than death. He definitely had the ability to commit suicide. Compared to what he had suffered, he was more unwilling to die.

It was only when Feng Ling’s crying slowed that Huo Yuhao tried to comfort him. “Alright, it’s all in the past. Everything will become better. That person who harmed you has already been killed by me. She won’t abuse you or harm you anymore. Try to clear your mind and think of where those who were captured with you are being kept.”

Feng Ling rubbed the tears off his face. “They are, they are all being held captive in a water prison.”

“A water prison?” Huo Yuhao asked doubtfully.

Feng Ling nodded. At this point, he seemed much more normal. “This water prison is located underneath a moat to the south of the city. It was constructed following the flow of the moat. Everyone is immersed in water, and they are all very weak now.”

An enlightened look flashed across Huo Yuhao’s eyes. No wonder he couldn’t detect it earlier. He hadn’t expected the hostages to be held captive in such a place!

“How many hostages are there? Are their jailers all evil soul masters?” Huo Yuhao asked.

Feng Ling asked, "I don't know how many people are being held captive there. However, evil soul masters took a few of them away. I was one of them. The evil soul master who took me has already killed a few people. A few others committed suicide." As he spoke until this point, he started to shudder uncontrollably again.

Chapter 377.3: Dispelling, Clues, Prison of Water

He Caitou and Xu Sanshi's expressions changed. The hostages were in a worse situation than they had thought, which made their rescue mission much more difficult.

Huo Yuhao asked Feng Ling a few more questions, but it was obvious that Feng Ling's state of mind had declined once again, as his words became very unclear. The information that they obtained only consisted of what Feng Ling had revealed earlier.

However, it was still very valuable to the Tang Sect. At least they knew where the hostages were behind held. Indeed, they were being watched by evil soul masters.

In this way, they had a direct target for their upcoming mission.

After exiting Feng Ling's room, Huo Yuhao immediately gathered his teammates for a meeting. After this, he recounted what Feng Ling had said to him earlier.

"We must start planning our rescue mission. Let me give my suggestion before all of you add on." Huo Yuhao couldn't be bothered with remaining hidden anymore, given the crisis they were experiencing in Sunrise City. A missing evil soul master was bound to alert the Holy Ghost Church. This was why they had to act as soon as possible. According to Huo Yuhao's estimation, the fight near the border over these few days was becoming more intense. They had the biggest chance of success if they exploited this opportunity to rescue the hostages. This was because the Holy Ghost Church was likely to send some strong soul masters to supplement their forces at the border.

"We have limited people and resources. That's why we can't do everything. From what Feng Ling has told us, the Holy Ghost Church has already started to lay their hands on the hostages. A portion of the hostages were even taken to a different place, and we all know what will happen to them. Even if there are survivors, I'm afraid their lives are like a living hell. We can only give up on this portion of the hostages." Huo Yuhao looked very stern as he said this, and his tone also sounded very determined.

Nan Qiuqiu stood up and glared at him furiously. Her eyes seemed to be on the verge of spewing fire.

"Sit down!" Huo Yuhao shouted. His voice didn't sound very loud, but it had an indescribable might to it. Along with the fact that he had killed a Soul Douluo on his own, Nan Qiuqiu turned pale when he shouted at her, and she sat down uncontrollably.

"I know what you want to say. Qiuqiu, I know you don't want anything to happen to your mother, but you have to know that our overall abilities can't compare to the Holy Ghost Church. The Academy only sent us here because we aren't obvious targets. That's why we can only do what we are capable of. If we successfully rescue most of the hostages and your mother isn't among them, I promise you that I'll stay with you until we find her.

"However, we need to save the majority first."

Nan Qiuqiu was stunned, and silently lowered her head. She knew that this was the best Huo Yuhao could do. With his immense spiritual power, it was also the most effective if he remained with her to search for her mother. Right now, she could only pray that her mother was with the majority of the hostages. While she was a proud lady, she wasn't unreasonable. **01E.0B)1n**

Seeing that he had convinced Nan Qiuqiu, Huo Yuhao turned to the rest and continued, saying, "I'll immediately survey the region Feng Ling mentioned, and I'll try to sneak in. While I get some first-hand information, all of you must be prepared to take action. Second senior, you can start our arrangements over here. Whatever you need me to set up, you can separate and pass to me. I'm confident of leaving and entering the city without being detected."

He Caitou nodded.

"Third senior, you are adept at controlling water. You should follow me to the water prison and reinforce me.

"Alright." Xu Sanshi nodded as well.

Although they were older than Huo Yuhao, they treated him as their leader right now. This was extremely wise, considering that they were in a dangerous place right now, and it was pertinent for them to have a common voice.

"Sister Ziyang, starting from now, install the items that I passed to you earlier at the north region of the city when it's dark. These high altitude surveillance soul tools are the least effective at night. However, you must still remain careful. If you are discovered, you must immediately escape. If possible, try to install as many as possible. They will provide us with opportunities during our mission."

"Alright, count on me." Jing Ziyang gave Huo Yuhao a thumbs-up to signal that she understood. She was given this role because of the abilities of her Fog. She could turn into fog and escape anytime she wanted. Compared to the rest, she could make the safest escape.

Huo Yuhao then turned to Ji Juechen. "Brother Ji, you are in charge of reinforcing Sister Ziyang. You must guarantee her safety."

He nodded coolly.

Huo Yuhao's gaze finally landed on Nan Qiuqiu and Ye Guyi, "The two of you will remain in the hotel and guard Feng Ling. Also, please protect second senior as he sets everything up."

Ye Guyi was a little displeased. "Do you need both of us to remain here to guard one person? Going to the water prison will be very dangerous. I can tag along as extra reinforcement."

Huo Yuhao didn't completely trust Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu yet. They had both just joined the Tang Sect and there were still many things that they were not completely sturdy in. In the face of a crisis, it was very difficult to tell what kinds of abilities they would unleash.

However, Ye Guyi's Holy Angel was still very important. It was an effective weapon against evil soul masters.

After pondering for a moment, Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "Alright. Qiuqiu will remain here, while Guyi will follow me and third senior. Let's go."

Time was not on their side. For now, the Sun Moon Empire was more focused on their borders. While the water prison was under the protection of the Holy Ghost Church, the security of this prison wouldn't be as tight as compared to before. Furthermore, Huo Yuhao and the rest didn't have to risk their lives to fight their enemies.

According to Feng Ling's description, the water prison was beneath the city's moat at the south wall. However, Huo Yuhao didn't leave the city to survey it. Without a doubt, the strength of the surveillance soul tools above this moat were bound to be the strongest. If he used his spiritual power to seal his soul power, he couldn't use his Imitation. However, he couldn't openly try to enter the prison either.

As a result, Huo Yuhao, Xu Sanshi and Ye Guyi didn't leave the city. Instead, they proceeded to the south wall from inside the city.

Sunrise City wasn't very big, but the three of them still needed to make a slight detour before they got close to the south wall.

In the hotel, Nan Qiuqiu was bored as she guarded Feng Ling. After he ate, he fell asleep. As she sat in a chair, there was a worried look in her eyes.

She kept on praying for her mother, and hoped that she was fine. She also knew that Huo Yuhao didn't bring her along because of her unstable state of mind. It was evidently an accurate decision to leave her behind. However, she was extremely anxious.

In the room, Feng Ling unwittingly let out a few groans as he flipped his body around while sleeping. Suddenly, his body jerked, and a trace of dark-red light flashed above his nose.

Nan Qiuqiu naturally didn't see this, as she was outside the room. After the dark-red light flashed, he soon became normal again. His body turned rigid for a moment before he relaxed and continued sleeping.

In another room, which was also the largest room that they had booked in this hotel, He Caitou was busy setting everything up.

Every corner of the roof was stuck with starfish-shaped soul tools. There was a red spot of light at the center of each starfish-shaped soul tool, and they were slowly flashing.

They were called surveillance-interference soul tools, newly invented by Xuan Ziwen. They were targeted towards all types of surveillance soul tools, and were able to shield against the effects of most surveillance soul tools apart from thermal detectors. They were especially useful against soul power detectors, and the only problem was that each of them only covered a limited area. This was why many of them had to be used at the same time. Right now, any soul power undulations that came from this room couldn't be detected by the surveillance soul tools outside no matter how many of them there were.

As for thermal detectors, they were extremely rare and huge. They couldn't be used on the streets for a patrol. Even if they could be carried around on the streets, what good would they do even if they detected people in the hotel?

The Tang Sect was extremely prepared this time before they set off. To ensure their safety, Bei Bei and Xuan Ziwen had used up every resource that the Tang Sect had. Xuan Ziwen even wanted to hand everything to them.

He Caitou was installing an extremely huge soul tool right now. It had a hexagonal base, and the top of it was carved with many complicated patterns. There were circular, protruding parts on the sides of the hexagonal base. Each side had four circular protruding parts. On a closer look, every circular part was actually a formation array. This meant that there were twenty-four formation arrays on this hexagonal base.

Above the hexagonal base was an oval-shaped metal ball that resembled an egg. This metal ball was able to turn freely on the hexagonal base. The major axis of this ball was around two meters long, while its minor axis was around a meter and twenty centimeters long. There were complicated patterns carved on the entire ball, and whole thing actually looked like a huge, completed formation array.

After He Caitou cautiously installed it, his forehead was already dripping with perspiration. After this, he installed a total of twenty-four Class 6 Sealed Milk Bottles into the base.

He Caitou seemed slightly intoxicated as he caressed the flowery patterns on this huge ball. He muttered to himself, "A complete Class 8 soul tool! And it's even close to a Class 9 soul tool. Furthermore, it's used for auxiliary purposes. No matter what, I must bring this treasure back. Otherwise, Teacher Xuan will kill me. When little junior is back, we can adjust its position. We are at the north of the city, which is a very suitable location for this soul tool to be used. Hehe. Let me add a few other accessories, and let it 'bloom' when they come."

Chapter 378: The Heavens Have Eyes, the Sword Fanatic Gains Enlightenment

As he spoke, He Caitou started to get busy again. He installed soul tool after soul tool in every corner of the room.

What he didn't know was that his reputation as the Origin of Destruction would start to become notable after this mission, and he would also become one of most well-known fighting soul engineers on the continent.

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Jing Ziyan was also busy. At this point, she was in her own room, adjusting her storage-type soul tool. At times, she would retrieve items that looked like stones.

These stones weren't very eye-catching, and they were only slightly bigger than an adult man's fist. However, Jing Ziyan was very careful, because she had once witnessed how destructive these stones were.

Ji Juechen was sitting on a chair not far away, and silently watched her as she busied herself. He suddenly said, "Can you stop smiling?"

Jing Ziyan was shocked, and a 'stone' in her hand suddenly slipped. Jing Ziyan hurriedly reached out and grabbed it again. After that, she patted her chest and said, "Hey, can you not scare me when I'm dealing with these things? If they explode, we'll be critically hurt, if we don't die!"

"I just couldn't take it anymore. Furthermore, I remembered Huo Yuhao said before that they have to be detonated. Even if they drop on the ground, they won't explode," Ji Juechen said.

Jing Ziyan snorted. "What can't you take anymore? Even if it won't explode, we need to be careful. It's better to be safe. It's not like you've ever seen the strength of these things."

Ji Juechen said, "I couldn't take your expression anymore. Do you know how sinister you looked earlier? You looked just like a little fox."

Jing Ziyan snapped, "You're more like a little fox. Have you ever seen a little fox carrying a bunch of bombs? Eh, why are you so talkative today? It's not like you."

As she spoke, she picked up a few of the bombs before she turned around and looked suspiciously at Ji Juechen.

Ji Juechen's cold expression suddenly changed, and Jing Ziyan was shocked. Is he embarrassed? Or is he being shy?

"Heavens! What's wrong with you, Juechen? Are you sick?" Jing Ziyan walked towards him as she spoke.

"Stop!" Ji Juechen suddenly shouted.

Jing Ziyan immediately stopped and gave him a doubtful look.

"I'm fine, I'm not sick." Ji Juechen smacked his own forehead, as if he were trying to calm himself down.

"Then what's wrong with you?" Jing Ziyan stared at him doubtfully.

Ji Juechen lowered his head and seemed to be thinking of something. Fortunately, this didn't last very long. He suddenly lifted his head again and said to Jing Ziyan, "Ziyan, how long have we known each other?"

"Oh, several years already. We got to know each other when no one was willing to interact with you when you first entered the Academy. Back then, you were only admitted to the Academy to make up the numbers. After that, you found a suitable path, and I watched you progress to where you are now. Why?"

Ji Juechen's gaze suddenly became determined. "Let's get together."

Jing Ziyan was confused as she said, "Haven't we always been together?" However, she was stunned when she looked at Ji Juechen's eyes clearly. Three of the stones in her hand fell out and crashed to the ground.

It did prove that the stones wouldn't explode. However, Jing Ziyan's expression was extremely terrified at this moment. She was frozen in disbelief, and couldn't imagine what was happening to her right now. Her expression perfectly displayed how she was feeling.

"You, what are you... speak clearly, what do you mean?" Jing Ziyan's voice was trembling uncontrollably, as if the most terrifying thing in this world had happened to her.

Ji Juechen lowered his head again, and didn't dare to look her in the eyes. He muttered, "I said that we should get together. You are right. We've known each other for years, and you've always been by my

side – helping me, encouraging me and taking care of me. Although I never once commented on any of it, I know it in my heart.

“After Huo Yuhao unleashed his three skills that day, I realized that I’ve been detached from this world for too long. There shouldn’t just be swords in my world, because swords can’t help me reach the peak that I’ve always wanted to reach. I should be like a normal person. I should have relationships. I only know one lady, and that is you. In addition, I feel like I can only think of you. Let’s get together, shall we?”

As he raised his head again, Jing Ziyang saw a trace of anticipation and nervousness in his eyes.

“I’m not pretty.” Jing Ziyang seemed to grit her teeth as she said these few words. Her eyes were already on the verge of tearing up at this moment.

“You are the only lady in my eyes. You are just like my sword. Also, do you think I’m very concerned about your beauty?”

Jing Ziyang shifted her head to one side and tried to stop her tears from flowing.

“I’m not gentle, either. I’m competitive, and I like to fight! I might beat you up at any time!”

“Those are precisely the reasons why we should get together.” Ji Juechen seemed to become a little tense. “Are...are you willing?” He started to seem a little depressed right now.

This was probably the most he had spoken in the past ten years, and it was also the day where his mood had experienced the greatest changes. At this moment, he suddenly realized that his sword intent had met some kind of problem. It was as if it had been punctured by some ridiculous thing.

Jing Ziyang raised her head, and her tears flowed down her cheeks. “Heaven! You’ve finally opened your eyes.”

When she looked at Ji Juechen again, her gaze had already turned sharp. She took one step forward and came over in front of him. After this, she sat on his lap and wrapped her arms around his shoulders. They looked into each others’ eyes at this close distance.

“From this moment onwards, you are my man. You can’t turn back, and there’s no time limit. Do you know how long I’ve been waiting for this day? From today onwards, Yuhao is my benefactor. Scoundrel!”

Her tears flowed again, but she kissed his lips as if she had gone crazy, and held tightly onto his head. Her tears also flowed onto his face in an instant.

Ji Juechen was stupefied, completely stupefied. He only felt a force that he had never experienced or imagined before coming from Jing Ziyang’s body. This force had nothing to do with her soul power or fighting, but it struck his heart with an unprecedented momentum. His sword intent melted at this point. Jing Ziyang’s slightly salty yet soft lips, and the inexperienced kiss that she planted on his lips, lit a fire in his heart.

Gradually, Ji Juechen recovered from his shock. His hands wrapped around Jing Ziyang’s waist as he hugged her tightly. He started to be the active one. While he was as inexperienced as Jing Ziyang, he was more aggressive and offensive as he sensed that force.

His love was like his sword – they both needed a flash of realization. Just like Jing Ziyan had said, he had finally gotten it right. The feelings that he had been keeping in his heart for so long had finally erupted, and they couldn't be stopped.

In this perilous city, they had finally taken that defining step, and removed the thin barrier between them. *nove-13.1n*

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Huo Yuhao, Xu Sanshi and Ye Guyi arrived at the south end of the city. They were less than fifty meters from the south wall.

It was noon, and the three of them found a small, ordinary restaurant to dine at. This restaurant also fit their status according to their dress.

After ordering a few small dishes, they started to eat their lunch.

Huo Yuhao was sitting in a corner of the restaurant, Xu Sanshi sat next to him, while Ye Guyi sat opposite him. It was very difficult for anyone to notice him.

He unleashed his Spiritual Detection, and directed it underground. It drilled through the ground like a sharp awl.

Penetrating the city wall to survey the area beyond it would take a toll on his spiritual power, while going over the city wall would change the direction of his spiritual power, which would make it difficult to control. Thus, Huo Yuhao chose to go underground.

The south wall was indeed more tightly guarded than other places in the city. As Huo Yuhao scanned upward, he discovered that there were more thermal and soul power detectors here than at the northern city gate.

Furthermore, there were also a few hidden offensive soul tools above this wall. The outer perimeter was tightly guarded.

Huo Yuhao kept on moving his spiritual power diagonally downward. The foundation of the city wall only reached a depth of ten meters. After ten meters, Huo Yuhao's spiritual power managed to extend beneath it.

As he ranged further underground, he exhausted his spiritual power greatly. It was only because of his immense spiritual cultivation that he was able to unleash such strong spiritual power and control.

After reaching close to thirty meters underground, Huo Yuhao felt less resistance to his spiritual power as it entered water.

City moat. This has to be the city moat.

Huo Yuhao was delighted, and continue to move his Spiritual Detection down. At the same time, he also moved it further to either side.

The water was a little polluted, but the senses from his spiritual power were detached from his body. They weren't like his vision.

Very soon, Huo Yuhao's spiritual power had swept more than fifty meters of polluted water, but he didn't discover anything. There was only silt at the bottom of the moat. With his spiritual power, he could only go ten meters below the layer of silt before he started to feel dizzy.

Huo Yuhao lifted his head and shut his eyes slightly. He took a deep breath to soothe his spiritual power.

"How is it?" Xu Sanshi asked softly.

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, "I can't. There's too big of an area to survey. The length of the south wall is quite extensive. I can only search slowly. Third senior, cover me. I'll try to use my Eye of Destiny. Perhaps I'll be able to sense more that way."

"Alright."

Huo Yuhao gulped down a glass of clear water in front of him before he placed his elbows on the table. His palms were naturally supporting his forehead, but covered the center of it.

His Eye of Destiny opened. When it opened, Xu Sanshi and Ye Guyi had a feeling that Huo Yuhao was illusory. A strange aura came from his head, but this feeling only lasted for an instant. However, they could still clearly see that Huo Yuhao had become different... even scarier.

Huo Yuhao unleashed his spiritual power again, the penetrative abilities of his spiritual power a few times stronger now. In a matter of seconds, he entered the moat once again.

Under his control, his spiritual power swept its surroundings and covered a greater area.

He couldn't do this all day. After all, it wasn't possible to construct anything under this layer of silt. Furthermore, Feng Ling's words weren't very clear, and he wasn't able to determine the actual location of the water prison. From what Feng Ling had mentioned, he only recalled three useful phrases – south wall, city moat, and water prison.

As he scanned his surroundings, he soon reached two hundred meters in distance. As the area that he covered grew, he was able to detect more things with the help of his Eye of Destiny.

He slowly sensed traces of a gloomy, despondent aura. This feeling came mostly from the eastern end of the south wall. He quickly shifted the direction of his Spiritual Detection. Indeed, this despondent feeling became stronger and stronger the more he moved east.

The draw on his spiritual power kept on increasing, and Huo Yuhao called to the Skydream Iceworm, "Brother Skydream, give me a hand."

Skydream's lazy voice sounded in his spiritual sea. "Okay."

The ring on Huo Yuhao's finger that the Skydream Iceworm had changed into lost its glow. In Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea, the Skydream Iceworm surfaced, and slowly released the strength of his pure spiritual origin into Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea. Suddenly, Huo Yuhao's spiritual power became much stronger.

His spiritual power continued to move east, and he finally found something suspicious.

It was at a position around three hundred meters to his east, and around three meters below the river bank close to this side of the south wall. There was an iron fence which was constructed out of thick, fine iron. The despondent and gloomy aura came from there, which meant it either had to be the entrance and exit of the water prison, or an opening for the flow of water into or out of the water prison.

Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh of relief after making this discovery. There were finally clues.

He quickly retracted his Spiritual Detection and shut his Eye of Destiny.

Just this short while had caused his spiritual power to be greatly drained. If not for the fact that it was already in the concrete-immaterial realm, he wouldn't have been able to take it.

"Let's go. Let's take a walk." Huo Yuhao secretly signaled to Xu Sanshi and Ye Guyi before they quickly settled the bill and left the restaurant. After that, they proceeded towards the south wall.

Chapter 379.1: Ma Xiaotao

Huo Yuhao's spiritual power could only reach thirty meters away from the city wall. There were already people shouting, cursing, and chasing people away from the top of the city wall, while patrols began to pay attention to Huo Yuhao and the others.

The three of them hurriedly switched directions, and put on a submissive demeanor as they followed the southern city wall towards the east.

Huo Yuhao relayed what he had just observed to Xu Sanshi and Ye Guyi as they walked.

"What do you plan to do?" Xu Sanshi asked.

Huo Yuhao answered, "We have to go inside and take a look. We will use the same method as we did back at Radiant City. Afterwards, you guys will book a room in a nearby inn, while Guyi will go back and relay our plans to the others. Third senior brother, you will protect me. Tonight, I will release my spiritual avatar so that I can take a look inside."

Xu Sanshi frowned and said, "Isn't that too dangerous? There are evil soul masters inside, and every evil soul master is adept at controlling souls and spirits. Furthermore, there are so many surveillance soul tools. Will those things affect you?"

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, "Surveillance soul tools can't deal with spiritual power, so it's safest if I send my spiritual avatar inside. I will be as careful as I can, and I will immediately pull out and run away if something is amiss."

Investigating and scouting with Huo Yuhao's spiritual avatar was drastically different from using Spiritual Detection. Spiritual Detection could be withdrawn in an instant, and Huo Yuhao would have nothing to fear even if he was discovered. After all, his enemies could only lock onto his location if they were very close, or if they possessed formidable spiritual power, like that evil soul master he had dispatched the other day. Huo Yuhao could just open his Eye of Destiny to shake off his enemies even if they had locked onto his location.

However, he could reach a lot further with his spiritual avatar, and he would have a lot more flexibility. However, his spiritual avatar was formed from his spiritual power and part of his spirit, and that entity

wasn't something that he could withdraw at a whim. Huo Yuhao would definitely be heavily injured if his enemies were able to restrain or destroy his spiritual avatar. This endeavor was a lot more perilous.

Of course, his spiritual avatar would give him the best investigation and reconnaissance results. The Tang Sect didn't have a better alternative solution for now.

Xu Sanshi deliberated for a moment before he patted Huo Yuhao on his shoulder and said, "Be careful, then. Let's go and find a place to stay. Guyi, come back after you return to inform others, and you will join me to protect Yuhao. It'll be a lot safer if we have one more person protecting him."

"Alright." Ye Guyi agreed straightforwardly and happily.

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Sunrise City wasn't a large, vibrant, and bustling city, so searching for a small inn wasn't too difficult. They quickly found an inn that was more decrepit than the one that they had stayed in on city's northern side and booked three rooms.

Huo Yuhao immediately began to meditate in the center room after everyone settled down. He tried to recover the spiritual power that he had expended before, while Xu Sanshi watched the landscape and their surroundings, and Guyi returned to the city's northern side. The three of them worked together as they made their preparations nervously.

Time always passed rapidly during meditation, and the sky was now darkening. Huo Yuhao didn't have anything to eat, but he was back to his full strength and energy. He informed Xu Sanshi before he immediately released his spiritual avatar.

Huo Yuhao released his spiritual avatar a lot more smoothly than back then. Furthermore, Huo Yuhao released a lot more spiritual power and more of his spirit, so that he could accomplish as much as he could on this reconnaissance mission.

Xu Sanshi was full of awe and admiration as he watched a faint golden projection that looked identical to Huo Yuhao appear in front of him.

"Third senior brother." Huo Yuhao's original body was just sitting there while his spiritual avatar greeted Xu Sanshi.

Xu Sanshi sounded a little helpless as he said, "Go, quickly. I'm afraid that your spirit will split."

Huo Yuhao chortled and said, "You don't understand us spiritual-type soul masters' control over spiritual power. I'll be fine. Just wait and see what I can do. Here I go." Huo Yuhao's spiritual avatar drifted into the air as he spoke, and he sipped out the window quickly. The pale golden hues disappeared from the air at the same time.

Huo Yuhao could attach even more abilities to his spiritual avatar after his spiritual power and his ability to control it were enhanced. Of course, he could only attach abilities that belonged to his Spirit Eyes.

Huo Yuhao activated Imitation, and his spiritual avatar vanished into the night sky as he left the inn. He was in spiritual form, but his spiritual avatar was a product of his concrete-immaterial spiritual power, similar to his original body. Huo Yuhao could only fly at a certain height above the ground. Otherwise, he

would be affected by the winds in the sky, and he would expend a lot more spiritual power. He could even run the risk of shaking and damaging his spirit.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual avatar was completely concealed at this moment. Just as Huo Yuhao had said, the surveillance soul tools on top of the city wall were useless against him.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual avatar quickly scaled the city wall, and he arrived by the city's moat.

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Inside the city, Huo Yuhao was still sitting inside the inn with his legs crossed. He gestured to Xu Sanshi to signal that everything was alright before he entered meditation right away and focused all his strength and energy on controlling his spiritual avatar as he disappeared into the river water.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual avatar trembled conspicuously as he entered the turbid river water. Huo Yuhao had to consume a lot more spiritual power when his spiritual avatar was inside the water, but he had already found the right place before this, so his expedition was still relatively smooth for now.

Huo Yuhao went right through the iron fencing beneath the water and swam forward swiftly. His spiritual avatar activated Spiritual Detection at the same time and searched around in front of him.

The river water behind the iron fence was still as turbid as before. Huo Yuhao controlled his spiritual avatar and swam forward for several dozen meters, and felt he had swum back into the city from under its walls. Abruptly, everything in front of him changed, and he could hear some sounds.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual avatar emerged from the water's surface and immediately witnessed a shocking sight.

Feng Lin was right – this place was a water prison. The entire place was constructed from tough granite, while row after row of steel cages were neatly arranged. The water prison covered an incredibly large surface area.

There were between eight to ten people imprisoned inside each cage, and each cage was filled with water that was at least one meter deep, so the turbid water soaked everyone. Almost every single prisoner trapped inside had ghastly pale faces, and their auras were extremely weak. The prisoners inside this water prison almost couldn't rest, and they could only lean to one side.

Huo Yuhao vaguely identified these prisoners as the team members and leaders that belonged to the various academies and sects who had gone to Radiant City to participate in the Continental Elite Youth Soul Master Tournament.

Huo Yuhao and the Tang Sect had even crossed paths with some of these people during the tournament. However, their auras were all very weak at this moment, and not a single soul power undulation appeared on their bodies.

Huo Yuhao withdrew his Spiritual Detection after a brief scan of the area. He was sure that evil soul masters stood guard in this place, and he had no idea if there were more spiritual-type evil soul masters present. Furthermore, his spiritual power was too strong, so even normal evil soul masters could easily detect him if they were a little more sensitive.

Huo Yuhao began to inspect and survey those cages and recognized more and more familiar faces inside them. Huo Yuhao didn't know most of their names, but he had impressions of them to varying extents. He heaved a faint sigh inside. "These people are all elites and prodigies of their generation! They could represent their respective academies and sects for that tournament. Which of them isn't one of the most outstanding individuals of the younger generation?"

The Sun Moon Empire risked universal condemnation by imprisoning them. They had thoroughly and completely antagonized the Douluo Continent's three native empires while using these hostages to suppress and restrain the academies and sects that belonged to the Douluo Continent's three native empires so that they wouldn't join a war or conflict between the empires so easily. The Sun Moon Empire was treacherous and scheming at the same time.

There were two main rows of water prisons. There was a stone platform about one meter above the water's surface in the middle of these two rows. This stone platform stretched straight forward, and several guards in black cloaks paced and patrolled back and forth.

Huo Yuhao didn't have to deliberately survey those patrols to feel the evil and chilly auras that emanated from these evil soul masters.

This water prison was located within the city's walls, and this meant that Feng Lin's information wasn't entirely accurate. The water prison borrowed the city's moat, but it was located within the city walls, not outside. Furthermore, Huo Yuhao could tell from how the water was directed and diverted that there was undoubtedly an entrance within the city that led into this water prison.

Huo Yuhao had an exceptionally strong sense of direction. It only took him a moment of thought to roughly determine this entrance's position. What rendered him a little speechless was that this entrance was actually located inside a bunker beside the southern city wall.

Bunkers were specifically designed to accommodate soldiers so that they could rest temporarily when they were defending the city. This bunker was located next to the city gate, and soldiers inside it could swiftly reinforce the city gate if they went down, while they could rapidly ascend to the top of the city wall if they went up. What a great arrangement, indeed; bunkers were always guarded by soldiers at any point in time. Adding on the countless surveillance soul tools that were located near the city gate, and infiltrating this bunker without being discovered was almost impossible.

Huo Yuhao was about to make his judgment when he suddenly saw several evil soul masters walk over to his position. The evil soul masters who had been patrolling before this separated respectfully to both sides of the stone platform. Every single one of these patrols bent down and looked very respectful and reverent.

The evil soul masters who were strolling over didn't have cloaks covering their bodies, and Huo Yuhao was actually familiar with them.

Those walking in front of everyone else were the Third Elder and the Fourth Elder. Huo Yuhao had seen them before at the Radiant City Elite Soul Engineering Tournament. The Third Elder had considered taking him in as his disciple then.

Huo Yuhao was even more familiar with those who followed behind these two elders – they were the three evil brothers; Zhong Litian, Zhong Lidi, and Zhong Liren. All three of them were eight-ringed evil

Soul Douluo, and they were adept at manipulating all kinds of beast souls to fight for them. Huo Yuhao had rescued two infant Darkgolden Terrorclaw bears from their evil clutches back then, and the Tang Sect had been taking good care of them. The bears were growing very quickly, and Bei Bei had even requested specialists from Shrek Academy's Beast Dueling Division to procure a diet so that the Tang Sect could feed them better. The bears were still young, but their strength was increasing at an alarming rate. Right now, they were strong enough to stand guard at the Tang Sect's main gate. The bears had been most intimate with Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong'er before this, but Huo Yuhao didn't have much time for them now because there were just so many things he had to do.

Huo Yuhao had already decided that he would bring those bears with him when he ventured into the Setting Sun Forest to help his eldest senior brother search for medicinal herbs to treat Teacher Xiao Ya!

Chapter 379.2: Ma Xiaotao

There were only a few immortal herbs that Huo Yuhao could retrieve from the Icefire Yin Yang Well, but there were still quite a lot of supplementary and nutritious items. The Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bears would have no problem eating a little more because of their physiques, and these herbs could catalyze their growth. The bears would eventually become the Tang Sect's Divine Beast Guardians.

Huo Yuhao hadn't expected to meet these five evil soul masters when he had just arrived, and his real body drew a cold breath when he saw them.

Two of them were Titled Douluo, while the other three were Soul Douluo. The five of them had the strength to fight against five Titled Douluo at the same time. Furthermore, there were at least several dozen evil soul masters stationed in this place, and he had no clue how many other exceptionally powerful evil soul masters were here... and there were two soul engineer legions outside. Sunrise City also wasn't that far away from Radiant City, so Radiant City could muster reinforcements in no time. The Sun Moon Empire's arrangements were incredibly meticulous and tight!

Battle had to have broken out at the borders, but the Sun Moon Empire could still afford such an arrangement. This level of defensive strength wasn't something that the Tang Sect could fight.

Huo Yuhao continued to contemplate as he controlled his spiritual avatar and flew over to one of the cages. He hid discreetly in one corner and completely suppressed his spiritual undulations. He didn't dare to release even a single bit of spiritual power.

The Third and Fourth Elders scanned the prisoners inside the water prisons as they strolled. The hostages could naturally see them too and glared at them with vengeful eyes as they walked by. However, these hostages were just too weak, and they didn't even have the strength to curse and swear.

The Third Elder said as he walked, "Are we good on our restraints? Are we using enough drugs?"

"We are using enough. We infuse Soul Eradicating Powder into the water every day. With this powder dissolving in the water, not even Titled Douluo can think about concentrating and mustering their soul power. Furthermore, these fellows haven't eaten anything in a long time, and they must be weak and limp even with their physiques as soul masters. Several prisoners have fainted, but we gave them sufficient nutrition in time," Zhong Litian answered.

The Third Elder paused and turned back as he glanced at Zhong Litian. "Ah Tian, you still have to give them food. These people can't possibly cause any disturbances or trouble with our Soul Eradicating Powder, but we can't let them starve to death, because they are still very valuable to our leader in the future. I know you and your brothers have a great need for these powerful spirits but now is not the time. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Third Elder." Zhong Litian nodded. One could tell from his expression that he didn't quite approve of the Third Elder's words, but he was very respectful towards the man nonetheless. Zhong Litian immediately continued, "I will make the necessary arrangements now, and we will give them some food. Second brother, third brother – let's go together." He nodded in the Third Elder and Fourth Elder's direction before turning and leaving.

A cold look flashed by the Fourth Elder's eyes as he watched them leave. He lowered his voice and said, "These brothers are pushing it more and more, just because they are the Leader's slaves. Do they have to go personally to get some food for those prisoners? They are clearly trying to show defiance."

The Third Elder glanced at the Fourth Elder, and a disdainful and indifferent look flowed from his eyes. "Don't spout nonsense, fourth brother. The three of them are under the Leader's personal command, and we are also loyal to the Leader. We have to place our Church's interests as our top priority." These were his words, but a cold look flickered in his eyes at the same time; he was very displeased with how the three brothers were handling things.

They followed the stone platform and went up and down once through the water prison before walking out.

Huo Yuhao had been quietly observing them this entire time. He was delighted! These two Titled Douluo have some beef with the three brothers, and furthermore, the three brothers should be the ones in control of this water prison. This is important intel. I will have a better chance of rescuing the prisoners if I make good use of this information. Also, what's that Soul Eradicating Powder? The water inside this water prison is connected to moat outside. Are they not afraid of this powder losing its effects?

Huo Yuhao drifted discreetly towards the entrance he had come in from. He didn't waste this trip and had discovered and scouted out many things. He needed to go back so that he could digest everything further before he could determine how to rescue these prisoners.

Huo Yuhao was about to submerge himself into the water and was going to bring back some water samples when something happened at the stone platform's other end. The Third Elder and the Fourth Elder were just walking out when they uttered reverently, "Greetings, Holy Lady!"

Holy Lady? The Holy Ghost Church's Holy Lady is here?? Huo Yuhao vaguely recalled that Tang Ya had been addressed in a similar fashion. His operation would be a lot harder if Teacher Xiao Ya was here. How could he save Tang Ya with his current strength?

Huo Yuhao paused in his tracks and looked over to the stone platform's other end. The Third Elder and the Fourth Elder were standing on either side of the platform, while the three evil brothers and a girl who was clad in a long dark red dress began to walk towards him.

Huo Yuhao's eyes went slack when he saw this girl, and he could no longer shift his eyes away. Huo Yuhao lost control of his spiritual undulations, and they became a little disorganized.

"Who goes there?" the Third Elder suddenly snarled. Even though controlling spirits wasn't his forte, he was the strongest amongst the evil soul masters in this place. The Third Elder immediately detected Huo Yuhao as soon as his spiritual power showed a little disorder.

However, this exclamation jolted Huo Yuhao out of his shock and lifelessness. He didn't dare to stay even a single moment longer, and his spiritual avatar dove into the water in a flash as he started swimming outwards as fast as he could.

The girl decked in the flowing dark red dress grunted coldly as she raised her right hand and pressed forward through the air. A thick and intense dark red light instantly drilled through where Huo Yuhao had dove into the water, and the beam's scorching heat immediately dyed the turbid moat's water a dark red color as large amounts of steam surged into the air.

Huo Yuhao was still escaping through the water as quickly as he could, and he immediately felt a wave of searing heat attacking him from behind in the next moment.

Huo Yuhao wouldn't be afraid if his original body had been here. He would have his Ultimate Ice to protect him, and any fire-type abilities would have trouble causing him any damage at all. However, at this very moment, he only had his spiritual avatar. His avatar couldn't possibly have his Ultimate Ice-type soul power.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual avatar weakened rapidly as that searing heat assaulted him, and even his spiritual origin was shaken. Huo Yuhao could clearly feel that this heatwave his enemy had launched against him, which was full of heat and darkness, also possessed an ability to track and lock onto spiritual undulations. He had absolutely no chance of escaping before this heatwave could eradicate his spiritual avatar.

"Sister!" Huo Yuhao called out desperately, and his spiritual avatar unleashed Spiritual Shock at the same time.

The heatwave that was running him down brutally suddenly paused and Huo Yuhao immediately took advantage of this instant as he picked up the pace and rushed through the iron fence outside. He emerged from the city's moat and soared into the sky as he followed his original path and escaped through the air.

Inside the water prison...

The Holy Lady personally took action, so the Third Elder, the Fourth Elder, and the three brothers had looked on from the side. They had absolute faith in this Holy Lady's strength.

But in the next moment, they watched as the Holy Lady frowned and said, "That's strange – some spiritual undulations did appear before this. Can it be that we are too sensitive? My phoenix flames didn't find anything."

The Third Elder said, "Can it be that there's too much vengeance and resentment inside the water prison, and that has produced a lifeless spiritual form?"

The Holy Lady turned towards the three brothers and said, "Check it out carefully."

The three brothers were a lot more respectful towards her, and all three of them bowed reverently as they acknowledged, "Yes, Holy Lady."

The Holy Lady turned and walked towards the exit. A vacant look that had a tinge of struggle flashed deep in her eyes, but these emotional changes were instantly extinguished by the dark red flames in her eyes.

Huo Yuhao scaled the city wall and crossed to the other side after he left the water. He rushed back to the hotel as quickly as he could and reintegrated his spiritual avatar into his body.

Jade-green light gradually rose through the air, and only then did Huo Yuhao dispel the heat filled with evil that lingered in his spirit.

Huo Yuhao expelled a deep breath and gradually opened his eyes.

Xu Sanshi and Ye Guyi had been protecting him by his side this entire time. They instantly saw the shock deep in Huo Yuhao's eyes the moment he opened his eyes.

"What's wrong, Yuhao?" Xu Sanshi asked softly.

Huo Yuhao leapt down from his bed and took a deep breath. "Sister Xiaotao. I saw sister Xiaotao."

"Sister Xiaotao? Are you referring to... Ma Xiaotao?" An astonished expression immediately came over Xu Sanshi's face as he stared at Huo Yuhao with blank eyes and slack jaw. He was at a loss for words.

Huo Yuhao nodded vigorously. His lips were pressed tightly together, and he couldn't maintain his composure at this moment no matter how much self-control he had.

"Yes, it's her, my sister. She's really at the Holy Ghost Church, and they have actually kidnapped her. She's their Holy Lady now." The scene that he had just seen was deeply imprinted in his mind. She was wearing a long dark red dress and had seemed so coolly elegant and glamorous. She also possessed scorching phoenix flames, so who else could that be, but Ma Xiaotao?

Ma Xiaotao looked a lot more mature compared to five years ago. Her enchanting features had an extra tinge of cold mystery that came from darkness, while her figure had become more exaggerated and alluring. Ma Xiaotao's status had surpassed that of those two elders, who were Titled Douluo. Holy Lady, Holy Lady... she was actually addressed as Holy Lady, just like Teacher Xiao Ya. What exactly had happened to her?

The two of them had no words as they stared at one another. Ye Guyi was befuddled as she listened on from one side. "Ma Xiaotao? Who's that?"

Huo Yuhao explained as concisely as he could. "She's our senior, and she also graduated from Shrek Academy. Her martial soul had some problems, and she was captured by evil soul masters. She seems confused and is not in her right state of mind right now, and she's become the Holy Ghost Church's Holy Lady."

Ye Guyi didn't have a good impression of any evil soul masters. She frowned and asked, "How powerful is she?"

Chapter 379.3: Ma Xiaotao

Huo Yuhao took a deep breath. He already had his initial judgments from the strength that Ma Xiaotao had displayed before this. "Her martial soul is an Evil Phoenix, and she's inherited that from Shrek Academy's first Seven Monsters. Her martial soul seems to have completely mutated into a Dark Phoenix now. You can visualize that as Ultimate Fire that possesses the element of darkness. In terms of element, the two of us have to team up against her to even stand a chance at restraining her. However, she has eight soul rings. If my senses are right, my sister's soul power has increased enough for her to have eight soul rings, but she's not a Soul Douluo."

Ye Guyi drew a cold breath as she heard Huo Yuhao's words. She hadn't wasted her time at the Tang Sect when she was there, and she now knew a lot more about soul masters.

An eight-ringed Soul Douluo who possessed Ultimate Fire... what kind of concept was that? This existence was probably more terrifying than normal soul masters who had just become Titled Douluo. Furthermore, she also wielded the element of darkness!

Xu Sanshi forced a laugh and said, "If that weren't the case, how could she become the Holy Lady? In the previous Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Tournament, Xiaotao was Shrek's team leader, and her martial soul mutated because she unleashed too much power during the tournament's final round. She was eventually kidnapped by the Holy Ghost Church. We are in trouble now, because she isn't just powerful... We can't kill her, so we have already lost this battle in psychological terms."

Huo Yuhao shook his head softly and said, "That may not be true. Sister Xiaotao doesn't seem to have lost her mind as completely as teacher Xiao Ya has; her Ultimate Fire is just too brutal and violent. Even the evil soul masters might not be able to control her emotions entirely. I tested her before this, and she seemed to respond to my voice. If I can break her out of her trance, then our operation will have a much higher chance of success."

"No, that's too dangerous," Xu Sanshi muttered.

Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly and said, "I have to try no matter how dangerous it is, because she's already here. Leave right now, the two of you; her mental state is still a little confused. Don't worry, even if I can't defeat her, I know how to escape."

Yes, Ma Xiaotao was here.

Ma Xiaotao was standing on the street outside their inn, still dressed in her long dark red dress, and just silently standing there. It was now late at night, and there wasn't a single soul on the street. She was waiting quietly, as if she were the sovereign queen of the dark night. She had locked onto Huo Yuhao way before this with her spiritual power.

Huo Yuhao had felt a thread of Ma Xiaotao's spirit locking onto his avatar when he was escaping. Thoughts spun in his mind like lightning when that happened, and he made a decision.

The Holy Ghost Church had stationed more forces in Sunrise City than he had predicted. If he couldn't break through via Ma Xiaotao, their operation would have a less than fifty percent chance of success.

After all, they had to help several hundred people escape. He had some confidence to break the locks and restraints, but getting a sufficient distance away safely was too difficult.

Huo Yuhao leapt through the window and landed on the street outside quietly. He stared at Ma Xiaotao opposite him, and his eyes gradually became excited and passionate. An image surfaced in his memory..

He was back on the Sea God's Lake's shores, and Ma Xiaotao had nearly murdered them because she had lost her mind. He felt like he was back inside the icy lake water once more, when his soul power had interacted with Ma Xiaotao's soul power.

Ma Xiaotao was his hot-tempered sister, but she had always been concerned about him, and she had always cared about him. He felt so much love and kinship from Ma Xiaotao, and even a little bit of gentle charm.

Back inside the room, Ye Guyi wanted to follow Huo Yuhao outside, but Xu Sanshi grabbed her arm.

"Let's go."

"But she's an evil soul master who possesses Ultimate Fire! She's also a Soul Douluo, how can Yuhao...?"

Xu Sanshi lowered his voice and said, "Trust him. We can't help him here, and we will only attract more enemies. Let's go!" He dragged Ye Guyi forcefully as he spoke, and they rose through the air and jumped through another window on the other side before they vanished into the night sky in the blink of an eye.

"Do I know you?" Ma Xiaotao's voice sounded a little husky amidst her coldness, while her voice was a lot more pleasing to the ear than before.

"Of course!" Huo Yuhao took a deep breath as he forcefully suppressed his riling emotions at the same time.

"Who are you?" A thread of struggle flickered beneath Ma Xiaotao's eyes. Her emotions were a little off and confused since she had sensed Huo Yuhao's outcry inside the water, and scene after blurry scene flashed by in her mind. She felt as if something very important was about to happen, or had already happened before.

"I'm Huo Yuhao, your younger brother!" Huo Yuhao removed his makeup as he spoke and revealed his true face.

"Huo Yuhao? That name sounds familiar. Who is that?" Ma Xiaotao's eyes became even more confused and perplexed.

Huo Yuhao gradually stepped towards Ma Xiaotao. He was walking very slowly, but every step was very stable. He had been observing the dark red flames that were dancing in Ma Xiaotao's eyes this entire time.

"Sister, I am Yuhao. Do you still remember me? We first met on the shores of the Sea God's Lake, on Shrek Academy's Sea God's Lake. You lost control of yourself because of your evil fire back then, and you nearly killed Dong'er and I.

"My martial soul possesses Ultimate Ice, and I have suppressed the evil fire inside your body multiple times. You treated me as if you were my own sister, and you loved me and took care of me. We

participated in the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Tournament together, and we eventually clinched the championship and defended Shrek's honor. You were our team leader, and you were the one who led us to our ultimate glory."

"Huo Yuhao? Shrek?" Ma Xiaotao seemed to have remembered some things.

Suddenly, she took a step out and instantly appeared before Huo Yuhao, grabbing at Huo Yuhao's shoulder with one hand.

Huo Yuhao didn't dodge, and he didn't use any of his abilities. He just let her grab him however she wanted, and a wave of searing heat poured into him from Ma Xiaotao's palm. Huo Yuhao could see dark red flames rising from her right hand, and the clothes on his shoulder were immediately burnt to a crisp, then into ash.

What was more terrifying was that Huo Yuhao's skin was starting to burn, and half his body subsequently became dark red.

Huo Yuhao's body reacted instinctively at this moment. Green light surged from his body, and the outline of his skeleton could be seen as green light continued to flicker. Intense chills subsequently burst forth and collided with that wave of searing heat.

Huo Yuhao and Ma Xiaotao's bodies glowed at the same time, one body flickered with green light glimmering with faint icy-blue, while the other rippled with dark red light. The air around her was starting to twist and contort from all that heat.

Ultimate Ice and Ultimate Fire – two great extremities, and two formidable soul power types that were polar opposites of one another, fought against each other on Huo Yuhao's shoulder.

Ma Xiaotao had a much stronger cultivation than Huo Yuhao, but for some reason, her Ultimate Fire couldn't continue deeper once it entered his body.

The Ice Jade Empress Scorpion's skeleton amplified Huo Yuhao's elemental strength, and he had also assimilated part of the Snow Empress and the Ice Empress' origin power, which had allowed him to raise his Ultimate Ice to another level. Huo Yuhao's elemental power still surpassed Ma Xiaotao's.

No matter what, Ma Xiaotao's Ultimate Fire wasn't pure enough, because it also possessed the element of darkness.

But Huo Yuhao still winced in pain and agony. This contest between the two extremities was still occurring in his body, and Ma Xiaotao just had to slap him with her palm if she wanted to kill him.

Huo Yuhao could break free from her clutches, but he would have to pay a heavy price, and he didn't move because he didn't want to abandon this opportunity. He was very clear that he only had a chance to move her when her emotions were still considered stable, and he wouldn't stand a chance at all when her emotions became confused and disorganized once more.

Huo Yuhao's glossy eyes were filled with passion and emotion, and he resisted the intense pain in his shoulder with great difficulty as he called out softly, "Sister, sister!"

Ma Xiaotao's hand that was holding him suddenly stiffened when she felt his Ultimate Ice fighting back against her, and she just stared at Huo Yuhao from a close distance away. The light around them, with

the two of them at its center, was twisted. The high-altitude surveillance soul tools in the sky couldn't see anything at all.

The reason for that was because this entire region was within Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Interference and Imitation. Two powerful million-year soul skills were being used together, and unless there were thermal detectors close to where they were, nothing could possibly detect them. Furthermore, even if there were thermal detectors nearby, this contest between Ultimate Ice and Ultimate Fire going on between them meant that it wouldn't take more than three seconds before those thermal detectors exploded.

"Sister..." Huo Yuhao was still calling out to her.

"You are... Yuhao..." A tinge of consciousness finally appeared within the fires dancing in Ma Xiaotao's eyes.

"Yes! It's me, Yuhao." Huo Yuhao called out softly.

"No, you're my enemy!" The dark red flames deep in Ma Xiaotao's eyes became stronger, and she applied strength once more with the hand that was still holding onto Huo Yuhao's shoulder.

Huo Yuhao gritted his teeth, and he called out yet again with a hoarse voice. "Sister!"

Ma Xiaotao's hand loosened a little more. The skin on Huo Yuhao's shoulder had peeled off, revealing his tendons and the flesh beneath. Huo Yuhao's Life Gold bestowed immense life energy to him, but even his Life Gold couldn't help him repair his tissues amidst this standoff between Ultimate Ice and Ultimate Fire. Fresh blood was vaporized continuously as Huo Yuhao's life energy seeped away.

Tears flickered in Huo Yuhao's gleaming eyes. "Sister, do you know how much I've missed you over the years? I have no family, and I've always treated you like my own sister. I've suffered so much pain and agony for so, so long after you disappeared without a trace. I've finally found you, sister. Don't ever leave me again, okay?"

He took a step forward as he spoke as he reached out with his right hand for Ma Xiaotao's waist.

Ma Xiaotao instantly raised her left hand and cut towards Huo Yuhao's neck.

Right at that moment, Huo Yuhao's glistening eyes suddenly flared as he shouted at the top of his voice, "Sister!"

Ma Xiaotao's left hand stopped half a foot away from Huo Yuhao's neck, just like that. Ultimate Fire continued to burn as the light of Ultimate Ice rippled continuously from Huo Yuhao's body. He took this chance, and his right hand finally wrapped itself around Ma Xiaotao's waist as he hugged her well-developed body tightly.

Chapter 380.1: Wake Up, Sister!

"Mmph!" Ma Xiaotao grunted softly as the hand that was tightly latched onto Huo Yuhao's shoulder relaxed a little more. Ma Xiaotao's Ultimate Fire and Huo Yuhao's Ultimate collided once more, and both their bodies were jolted painfully, as if they were being electrocuted.

Huo Yuhao couldn't raise his left arm anymore, as his shoulder was severely injured, and his tendons and blood vessels were damaged. But that wasn't important to him – what was important was that he had finally taken the most crucial step.

“Sister, sister, wake up! Wake up! I am Huo Yuhao, and you are Ma Xiaotao. We are both students from Shrek Academy, and you are my sister, my sister! Sister, sister...”

He called out to Ma Xiaotao again and again, and he applied strength continuously through his arm that was wrapped around her waist. The Ice Jade Empress Scorpion's patterns gradually glimmered into view on Huo Yuhao's back as he began to strengthen his Ultimate Ice.

Intense chills emerged from his body and transformed into countless thin threads that fought against Ma Xiaotao's Ultimate Fire. But amidst this contest of extremes, a grey soul ring glimmered beneath Huo Yuhao's feet and discreetly absorbed the energies of darkness within Ma Xiaotao's Ultimate Fire.

Huo Yuhao was no longer the weak and small soul master that had participated in the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament with Ma Xiaotao back then. His soul power had reached Rank 60, and he just needed another soul ring before he would become a Soul Emperor. He might possibly reach an even higher level.

Huo Yuhao had completely absorbed the origin energy of Ultimate Ice that the Snow Empress had infused into his body a long time ago, and his soul power was so pure that even Xu Sanshi, who was nearing Rank 70, would gasp in amazement.

How was Huo Yuhao able to defeat and kill that spiritual-type evil soul master, an eight-ringed Soul Douluo? Besides the power of his three ultimate skills, his personal cultivation formed an important foundation for this feat.

The truth was that Huo Yuhao could almost obtain two soul rings instead of just one. The foundations of his soul power were nearing Rank 70, because of the gift that the Snow Empress had given him a long time ago: formidable soul power, which had brought him incredible pain and agony. This soul power had always been there, and as the hard times ended, the good times began.

This also meant that Huo Yuhao had a chance to directly become a Soul Sage if he could find suitable soul rings, and was the same reason why he had the stamina to resist Ma Xiaotao. He was only Rank 60, but his endurance and the strength of his soul power were close to Rank 70, while his Element wasn't any weaker than hers.

Huo Yuhao would be considered a powerful individual in the world of soul masters today... or rather, a quasi-powerful individual. He already had the confidence to resist his sister face-to-face, while his strong control over his spiritual power was also part of his foundation and confidence. At this moment, he was using Ultimate Ice to support his spiritual power in an attempt to awaken Ma Xiaotao, and he was also weakening the energies of darkness inside her body.

The most empirical difference between Ma Xiaotao and Tang Ya was that the evil soul masters had directly controlled Tang Ya's heart and mind. In addition to the drugs and whatnot that those evil soul masters had given her, Tang Ya was almost completely lost and confused. In contrast, one of Ma Xiaotao's most substantial problems was presented by her martial soul, the Evil Phoenix. All sorts of hallucinogens or psychedelics were futile against someone who possessed Ultimate Fire like she did.

Those evil soul masters were able to control her heart and mind, but they were only able to do so because they took advantage of her confusion and her emotional characteristics.

Huo Yuhao continuously weakened the energies of darkness within her body so that her confused will and consciousness could gradually recover. Even if Ma Xiaotao couldn't awaken completely, she would at least be able to retrieve part of her memory.

What Huo Yuhao had inherited from the Calamity Necromancer Electrolux allowed him to discreetly purify the evil aura's fundamental existence within Ma Xiaotao's body. If Huo Yuhao was as powerful back then as he was today, he wouldn't have been afraid of Ma Xiaotao going mad at all.

"You... you..."

Ma Xiaotao's right hand finally relaxed completely. Her right hand was still on his shoulder, but her confused and befuddled eyes gradually became clear and transparent, while those dancing flames in her eyes were slowly receding.

"Sister, sister..." Huo Yuhao continued to call out to her, and every single call came from deep within his heart. Every single exclamation was filled with his intimacy with Ma Xiaotao.

"You are... Yuhao..." Ma Xiaotao's voice didn't sound so hoarse, as the Ultimate Fire on her body ebbed.

Huo Yuhao slowly withdrew his Ultimate Ice at the same time.

"Yes, I am your Huo Yuhao! I am your little brother. Wake up, sister, wake up!"

"I am Ma Xiaotao! I'm not the Holy Lady, I'm not the Holy Lady..." Ma Xiaotao's eyes were becoming increasingly clear, and Huo Yuhao continued to dispel the energies of darkness within her body as her eyes became brighter and brighter. The dark red flames that were emanating from her body slowly became fiery-red. **novE-lB-1n**

"We have a chance!" Huo Yuhao was elated as he enhanced his absorption of Ma Xiaotao's darkness. He patted Ma Xiaotao softly on her back again and again as he continued to guide her with his spiritual power.

"I am Ma Xiaotao. What am I doing here?" Ma Xiaotao muttered as if she was in a daze.

Huo Yuhao gently released her from his embrace. He raised his head and stared into her eyes.

The dark red colors in Ma Xiaotao's eyes had abated. Even though her eyes couldn't be considered impeccably clear and transparent, she didn't have that coldness from before.

"Yuhao! You're Yuhao. How have you become so tall?" Ma Xiaotao stared at him with a dazed look in her eyes.

Huo Yuhao answered, "That's because I've grown up! Sister, I am Yuhao."

Ma Xiaotao suddenly saw his shoulder and asked, "What happened to your shoulder? Who was the one that hurt you so much? I'll kill him." Her eyes instantly became sharp as she spoke.

“Calm down, sister, calm down. I did that to myself by accident, and I’m alright. You need to calm down.” Huo Yuhao urgently tried to explain. He couldn’t let Ma Xiaotao descend into her original state of confusion because of any emotions that were rippling in her heart.

“What’s happening to me, Yuhao? Why do I feel so muddleheaded? I feel like I’ve been this way for a long time. I’ve finally seen you after so long! How have you been?”

Huo Yuhao said gently, “I’ve been well, sister. Life has been tough on you these days. Ever since you lost control of your martial soul during the big competition, we took you back to the academy for treatment, but the Hallmaster of the Illustrious Virtue Hall, Jing Hongchen, entered the academy and destroyed your treatment room. The Holy Ghost Church, which consists entirely of evil soul masters, took that opportunity to kidnap you before they turned you into another person with their evil sorceries! Can you remember anything?”

Ma Xiaotao quivered when she heard “the Holy Ghost Church”, and seemed to regain her memory slowly. “The Holy Ghost Church – I am the Holy Ghost Church’s Holy Lady. No, why have I become the Holy Ghost Church’s Holy Lady? No! I am Ma Xiaotao, I am Ma Xiaotao!” Her eyes were starting to become confused and bewildered once more.

Huo Yuhao lifted his right hand and pressed it against her forehead as he channeled threads of cool soul power into her.

Ma Xiaotao shivered from the cold, and her eyes became clear yet again. “Where are we, Yuhao? I seem to have forgotten many things, but my brain seems to contain many things too! What do we do? What should I do?” She displayed some weakness as she spoke, and she took a step forward and hugged Huo Yuhao again. Her delicate body was still trembling faintly.

Huo Yuhao gently patted her back and said, “It’s alright, sister. What happened in the past has already happened, and as long as you recover, you’ll still be Ma Xiaotao, and you’ll still be my sister. Sister, you should try to clear your head, and you should try your best to think back.”

Ma Xiaotao seemed to gain quite some comfort in Huo Yuhao’s embrace, and her emotions finally slowly settled down.

“I think I can remember... I can remember some things. Have I done many bad things, Yuhao?” Ma Xiaotao’s voice sounded a little grief-stricken.

“No, sister, you have never done anything bad or wrong. The Holy Ghost Church’s Holy Lady is the one who has done those things, and not you. Furthermore, I have never seen you harm anyone. You need to relax... we are in grave danger at the moment, and you have to calm down as quickly as possible.”

“Alright.” The necromantic halo beneath Huo Yuhao’s feet had absorbed much of the darkness within Ma Xiaotao’s body. Ma Xiaotao could finally control her own emotions with her willpower, and memories flooded into her brain like a tsunami.

“I’ve killed people, Yuhao. I’ve killed many people—innocent people! And soul masters! I have...”

Huo Yuhao swiftly interrupted her and said, “Don’t say that, sister. I already said, the Holy Ghost Church’s Holy Lady did all that, not you. Do you understand? You didn’t do all those things.”

Ma Xiaotao was momentarily stunned. “Not me? I didn’t do those things?”

“That is correct; you weren’t the one. Those people died at the Holy Ghost Church’s hands.” Those were the words that came out of Huo Yuhao’s mouth, but he couldn’t help but shut his eyes from all the pain that he felt. He could tell from Ma Xiaotao’s status within the Holy Ghost Church that she was different from Tang Ya. Perhaps Tang Ya wasn’t strong enough, or her abilities were insufficient, so she hadn’t come into contact with much of the Holy Ghost Church’s duties and administration. However, with Ma Xiaotao’s abilities and her cultivation rank, and with her frighteningly exalted status...

“I understand. Thank you, brother.” Ma Xiaotao stood up straight and stared at Huo Yuhao. Her eyes were actually entirely clear at this moment.

“Yuhao, you’re using Ultimate Ice to help me suppress the riling emotions in my mind, but how are you able to suppress my evil aura from rising again? I don’t know what the Holy Ghost Church has left behind in my body, but that thing has been integrated into my martial soul, the Evil Phoenix. Because of it, that thing has been affecting my emotions and my mental state.”

Huo Yuhao lowered his voice and said, “I’m using some special methods to absorb the energies of darkness inside your body, but I can feel that these energies are still rising continuously. As soon as I stop absorbing them, I’m afraid they will come back again. In your case, you have to completely fix your martial soul’s problems so that you won’t be affected anymore.”

Ma Xiaotao sounded despondent and defeated. “Completely fix my martial soul’s problems? That’s a lot easier said than done. Not even Elder Mu had a solution back then.”

Huo Yuhao felt a pain in his heart when she mentioned Elder Mu, but he didn’t tell her that Elder Mu had passed away. Huo Yuhao knew that it was best that he didn’t stimulate her in any way.

Chapter 380.2: Wake Up, Sister!

“I have a solution, sister, I really do. I’ve been to a place, and I’ve obtained the Poison Chapter that Tang San, who was part of Shrek Academy’s first generation of Shrek’s Seven Monsters. There is a record in there that describes how to resolve the problems with your Evil Phoenix! You have to ingest some immortal herbs, and you can dispel that evil aura within you. Furthermore, there are several immortal herbs that you can choose from. When we finish what we have to do here, I will accompany you to look for them. Alright?”

“Really?” Ma Xiaotao’s eyes lit up. “Are you just saying that to make me happy?”

“How can I crack jokes about something like this?” Huo Yuhao said seriously. “Your ancestor, Ma Hongjun, who was the first to possess the Evil Phoenix, used the very same method to resolve his problems. Can you remember what happened before this?”

A complicated look and a dash of pain flashed across Ma Xiaotao’s eyes. She nodded slightly and said, “I can remember parts of what happened. I need some more time to regain my memory.”

Huo Yuhao continued, “Sister, we are in Sunrise City, and this place is very dangerous. I’m staying in this inn next to us, and I’ll be here for a while. Come and find me at midnight everyday so that I can help you suppress the evil flames inside you. At least, I can help you control them so that they won’t affect your

emotions and your mental state. Judging by how fast those energies of darkness are recovering inside your body, they shouldn't affect you within a day."

Huo Yuhao stopped here, and his face suddenly changed. "Not good, someone else... it seems like they're from the Holy Ghost Church. Sister, you're not fully lucid yet, can you manage?"

Ma Xiaotao's eyes froze for a moment, then she immediately nodded. "I can manage. As long as I remain lucid, I can use my willpower to fight against that evil within me. Leave, quickly. I can deal with this."

"Take care, sister." Huo Yuhao hugged her tightly before he jumped into the air and swiftly disappeared into the inn that he came from.

Ma Xiaotao watched him leave. A forlorn look flickered across her eyes as she muttered, "Yuhao, my brother... do you know that some things can't be forgiven and forgotten by lying to myself? Do you know that I've created mountains of corpses and oceans of blood while following them?"

She couldn't help but press her lips together tightly as she spoke. Ma Xiaotao looked up into the sky and forced back her tears as she clenched her fists tightly. "The Holy Ghost Church, the Holy Ghost Church!"

Shadow after shadow quietly appeared not far behind her, and stepped briskly in her direction.

There were six people altogether, but when they realized that Ma Xiaotao was the one standing in the middle of the street, not a single one dared to come near. They knelt down on one knee as they muttered in unison, "Greetings, Holy Lady."

"Eh?" Ma Xiaotao suddenly turned around, and in that moment, dark red flames were dancing in her eyes once more.

"We've just received reports from the city defense army that there were chaotic soul power undulations around this area, so we came here to take a look. I'm not sure if you..."

"Scram!" Ma Xiaotao shouted coldly.

"Yes." All six evil soul masters didn't dare to probe any further, and they turned and slunk away. They had witnessed with their own eyes what their Holy Lady was capable of.

Ma Xiaotao watched them disappear, and two rows of tears started streaming down her cheeks. Memories shocked her heart and soul like torrential tides, but she still had to take step after step into the distance. The window behind her that closed not too long ago was deeply imprinted at the bottom of her heart.

My younger brother... no matter what, I will always have you, brother.

A dash of despondence flickered beneath Ma Xiaotao's eyes as she rose into the air and flew into the darkness.

Huo Yuhao lay on his bed limply, as soon as he returned to his room. He managed to seal the blood vessels in his shoulder, but the pain that he felt was so intense that he had to grit his teeth as tightly as he could so that he wouldn't cry out in agony.

Huo Yuhao had started this day by using his spiritual avatar to scout and investigate, and he had ended it with his attempt at awakening Ma Xiaotao. Furthermore, he had had to sustain Spiritual Interference and Imitation continuously while resisting Ma Xiaotao's Ultimate Fire and suffering the wound on his shoulder at the same time. It had taken all of his willpower to accomplish all that!

The high-altitude surveillance soul tools had finally discovered something amiss in the end, because Huo Yuhao had already reached the limit of what he could take, and his spiritual power was almost unable to sustain his soul skills.

However, Huo Yuhao had a smile on his face at this moment.

He had succeeded, he had successfully awakened Ma Xiaotao! I've successfully awakened my sister! From the bottom of his heart, helping Ma Xiaotao to clear her head brought him more happiness than if he had saved every single hostage, because she was his family. Furthermore, with Ma Xiaotao as their inside man, they would have a far, far easier time saving those hostages.

Spiritual weakness and bodily pain were nothing much for Huo Yuhao's resilient willpower. He calmed himself down for a moment, and waited to recover a little before he immediately activated his Eye of Destiny to amplify his spiritual power. He found Xu Sanshi, and he passed a message to him that he was alright. Afterwards, he sat down with his legs crossed and began to meditate.

He wanted to return to the northern side of the city, but his body was in such a state that he really couldn't do that. Furthermore, he had awakened Ma Xiaotao, so he naturally wasn't afraid of his enemies coming back to search for him.

Huo Yuhao quickly displayed his formidable regenerative powers. The wound on his shoulder had completely scabbed over after two hours, while his spiritual power was recovering at lightning speed.

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There were two other people hard at work late into the same night.

Ji Juechen was sitting in a small bar not far from the northern city gate. He was drinking by himself, and his handsome looks had attracted more than one girl. But whenever they came over to flirt with him, he had shaken his head each time.

Ji Juechen's face had always been ice-cold, but he would laugh foolishly from time to time, and his facial expression would occasionally become a little strange.

Jing Ziyao was still feeling a little excited as she walked discreetly between shadows from wall to wall. She tossed rocks one after another into certain dark corners, and some even rolled near the city wall.

Jing Ziyao's movement and actions were very covert and discreet, while she applied just enough strength from her wrists. She completed almost one round back and forth along the northern city wall within two hours.

She looked up at the sky after she finished all that. It was now late into the night, but she didn't feel any fatigue or exhaustion at all. Instead, there was only satisfaction in her eyes.

Jing Ziyang patted her hands and stepped out silently from the shadows, and quickly arrived at the bar Ji Juechen was drinking at.

A cunning look flashed across her eyes, and the smile on her face immediately transformed into fury as she barged into the bar looking angry and indignant.

Jing Ziyang gazed around inside the bar once she stepped in, and instantly locked her eyes onto where Ji Juechen was sitting.

“Very well, you drunkard! You don’t come home this late into the night, and you come out to drink alcohol. Follow me home, right now!” Jing Ziyang seemed just like a termagant as she dashed in Ji Juechen’s direction. She pinched his ear viciously and immediately began to drag him out.

“Aiyo, can you be gentler?” Ji Juechen felt the pain from his ear as a thread of exasperation and helplessness flowed from his eyes, but there were also dashes of amusement and happiness.

“Gentler? What? If I find out that you’ve come out to drink one more time, I’ll break your legs!” Jing Ziyang was still pinching his ear as she dragged him out of the bar just like that.

The bar’s customers all looked on with widened eyes and slack jaws, and even the bartender, who was initially dozing off, now had a pitiful look in his eyes. “No wonder he didn’t dare to accept those girls’ flirts, he actually has such a fierce wife! That’s just pitiful. So, so pitiful.”

Jing Ziyang dragged Ji Juechen several dozen meters outside before the furious and ferocious look on her face gradually became one of amusement.

Ji Juechen didn’t struggle out of her pinch, and he forced a laugh as he asked, “Are you enjoying yourself?”

Jing Ziyang giggled and said, “A little bit.”

Ji Juechen said, “Then you should pinch for a little while longer.”

Jing Ziyang was momentarily stunned. “You...”

Ji Juechen heaved a faint sigh and said, “I’ve devoted my life to the sword before this, and I’ve overlooked far too much. I’ve overlooked things that I should be treasuring, especially you.

Jing Ziyang was momentarily stunned. She subconsciously released her grip on his ear, and she planted her hands on her hips. “Are you saying that I’ve been very proactive, and I’ve always been trying to take advantage of you?”

Ji Juechen shook his head as he smiled faintly and said, “I’m foolish and stupid.”

Jing Ziyang couldn’t maintain her pose anymore, and her chin quivered gently as tears covered her eyes. “Why do you have to make me cry?”

Ji Juechen pulled her into his embrace and said, “I will use our future days to compensate you, alright?”

Jing Ziyang hammered his shoulder heavily and said, “Who needs your compensation?”

Ji Juechen didn't answer her question. Instead, he hugged her tightly around the waist. "I don't know anything about words of love, Ziyan, and I can only tell you that I thought about this long and hard when I was drinking before this... you are more important than my sword."

Ji Ziyan's body trembled when she heard his words. She suddenly looked up, and stared at Ji Juechen with incredulous eyes.

If another couple had the same conversation, comparing one's partner to an object would undoubtedly lead to conflict and resentment. However, these words were different when they came from Ji Juechen's mouth.

Ji Juechen was a sword maniac, and his sword had been the only thing in his life over his entire twenty years alive. His sword was his everything!

Jing Ziyan raised her trembling hands and clasped them around his face. Her voice quivered as she said, "You're the foolish one. No words of love can be more melodious than what you've just said to me. I love you, Juechen." She whimpered and sobbed, and tears were all over her lips as she pressed them against his. This time, her kiss wasn't passionate and intense anymore. Instead, her kiss was full of tenderness and warmth.

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Dawn arrived, and Huo Yuhao had already awoken from his meditation when the first ray of sunlight peeked through the windowsill.

There were two more people in his room long before he woke up: Xu Sanshi and Ye Guyi. They were both sitting in their own chairs with their legs crossed, and opened their eyes when they felt Huo Yuhao awaken.

"Seems like you've succeeded? How's your wound?" Xu Sanshi asked Yuhao with a smile on his face. Even though they were startled when they witnessed Huo Yuhao's injury after they came back last night, the fact that he could return to this place and indicated many things!

Chapter 380.3: Wake Up, Sister!

Huo Yuhao nodded firmly and said with a delighted look, "I've managed to awaken her. She should come over tonight, so we have to start our preparations immediately."

Huo Yuhao washed up briefly and had some breakfast before he took out the water sample he had retrieved the previous day.

"Third senior brother, can you help me separate the water elements inside? I studied that water prison very closely yesterday. Its position is quite low, while the moat's water outside should be running water, so it's always flowing. This means that if there isn't enough water inside the water prison, the moat will replenish it, while water won't flow backwards, and so the water won't change. There's something called Soul Eradicating Powder inside the water prison, and I've retrieved some samples. We have to investigate and research it as quickly as possible, because providing antidotes for the hostages will be crucial to saving them. My spiritual avatar isn't afraid of the toxins in the water, and I can bring the antidote back to the hostages as long as we can find it."

Xu Sanshi nodded and said, "That's not a problem. But the antidote..."

Huo Yuhao nodded self-confidently and said, "I should be able to do it." He possessed his ancestor Tang San's Poison Chapter, and had studied it closely. If he could figure out that Soul Eradicating Powder's composition, he had a chance to find an antidote with his recollection of the Poison Chapter's contents and his own understanding. If he failed, he would have to ask Ma Xiaotao for help when she arrived later on.

Huo Yuhao placed a glass bottle filled with toxic water on the table in front of him. Xu Sanshi pointed his right hand at the bottle, and gentle black soul power that resembled faint mist began to orbit it.

The bottle started to quiver gently as threads of water vapor gradually seeped out, and Xu Sanshi's black fog currents carried all of it away. The bottle's liquid contents were conspicuously diminishing.

Everything seemed so simple, but was separating elements like that truly easy and simple? Xu Sanshi controlled everything as if the entire process were a piece of cake, but even Huo Yuhao, who possessed the Ultimate Ice, knew that he couldn't extract pure water elements like that while maintaining the liquid's initial toxin composition.

Xu Sanshi himself wouldn't have been able to do this before his Xuanwu Shield's true awakening. Ever since he had gained the Xuanwu Shield, his ability to control and manipulate the element of water had reached an exceptional level. What he was doing at the moment was as easy as cutting a knife through butter for him.

It didn't take long before only some grey liquid was left inside the glass bottle. There were some other impurities besides those toxins, but the toxins were a lot easier to distinguish after purifying the bottle's contents.

Huo Yuhao immediately retrieved some utensils and medicinal liquids and started experimenting on those toxins.

Xu Sanshi and Ye Guyi accompanied him and guarded him, silently awaiting his results.

Reality proved that Tang San's Poison Chapter was very reliable. Huo Yuhao only took a little more than an hour to gain a rough idea of the Soul Eradicating Powder's origin.

The powder contained plant toxins, and it was formed from fusing the juice of three different venomous plants. It would be easier for Huo Yuhao to find the antidote if he could reach accurate conclusions and judgments, so he used his spiritual avatar once more to retrieve some more samples, before patronizing some pharmacies outside and purchasing all sorts of medicinal items to experiment.

The sun had gone behind the Western Mountain, and evening had arrived by the time Huo Yuhao finally succeeded.

"That's it! If we follow this proportion, we can neutralize the toxicity." Huo Yuhao declared excitedly, wiping some sweat from his forehead.

Spending his entire day researching and investigating poisons and toxins was a lot more exhausting than researching soul tools. After all, he was a lot less familiar with poisons than he was with soul tools.

Huo Yuhao swiftly jotted down the prescription he had devised from his experiments and passed it to Xu Sanshi and Ye Guyi as he said, "This prescription needs five different kinds of medicine, and I've written down the formula's proper proportions. Third senior brother, the two of you will immediately return to the north and call everyone to set off together to purchase those medicines. Everyone will buy one kind each, and everyone will process those medicines according to my directions. I will continue suppressing the power of darkness inside Xiaotao's body at night. The proportion of these five medicines cannot be wrong, because this antidote also has supplementary and strengthening effects, and I hope we can help the hostages recover their physical strength as quickly as possible."

They finally had a proper direction for their rescue operation, and Xu Sanshi and Ye Guyi were also excited. Ye Guyi asked subconsciously, "Yuhao, have you found Qiuqiu's mother?"

Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned. "I didn't notice when I went in before. There were many evil soul masters guarding and patrolling during that time, so I wasn't able to check every cage. But I think her mother should be alright. We will know when we bring everyone out."

"Oh." Ye Guyi acknowledged as she turned to leave the room. Xu Sanshi stared at Huo Yuhao with a deep look in his eyes before he followed her out.

Xu Sanshi understood Huo Yuhao a lot better than Ye Guyi did. He was acutely aware that with Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection, how could he not scout everything inside the water prison, which couldn't be considered spacious? They had both met Nan Qiuqiu's mother, Nan Shuishui, before, so searching for her shouldn't have been difficult at all. Huo Yuhao's words meant that he didn't find a single trace of Nan Shuishui when he was inside, but he had to provide an ambiguous explanation so that Nan Qiuqiu wouldn't spoil the entire operation because of her worry and anxiety.

However, Xu Sanshi also remembered that Huo Yuhao had promised her that if they couldn't save Nan Shuishui during their operation, he would stay behind with Nan Qiuqiu.

Huo Yuhao was naturally clearer about these things. He heaved a sigh inside, and he prayed that nothing had happened to Nan Shuishui. It wouldn't be that difficult to find clues about whether Nan Shuishui was still alive; he just had to wait for Ma Xiaotao tonight, and see if she could give him an answer.

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Xu Sanshi and Ye Guyi nervously went ahead to make the necessary preparations, while Huo Yuhao wasted no time, and began to cultivate. They were in a place filled with danger and peril, so maintaining himself at his peak condition was the optimal choice.

At this moment, there were "starfishes", which blocked surveillance soul tools, installed in every corner of the room he was staying in. He wasn't that far away from the southern city wall, but he was relatively safer.

Huo Yuhao had his dinner, and waited for Ma Xiaotao inside his room. However, the night was gradually getting late, and Ma Xiaotao was nowhere to be seen.

Huo Yuhao was beginning to feel anxious. Even though Ma Xiaotao hadn't appeared, enemies didn't surround him to flush him out either, which meant that Ma Xiaotao hadn't completely lost her mind and her will. But why wasn't she here yet?

Huo Yuhao was becoming increasingly worried until his door quietly opened, and a shadow dashed inside in a flash and blew out all the lights in the room at the same time.

Huo Yuhao subconsciously drifted into the air and rapidly positioned himself in one corner on the opposite side. He activated his Eye of Destiny at almost the same time, and his Spirit Eyes burst with light in all directions.

Sudden darkness was very disconcerting and disorienting for normal people, but Huo Yuhao had his Spirit Eyes, so it wasn't that different to him.

Huo Yuhao immediately relaxed after he composed himself for a second; wasn't that Ma Xiaotao who had just discreetly stepped into his room?

"Sister Xiaotao," Huo Yuhao hurriedly called out to her.

Ma Xiaotao nodded in his direction before she briskly walked towards his bed, as if she were silently sensing something.

Huo Yuhao was a little surprised as he watched her. Ma Xiaotao's Ultimate Fire was incredibly powerful, and her spiritual power had become exceptionally strong as well. Even though he hadn't deliberately scouted outside his room, the fact that Ma Xiaotao could come into his room without being discovered by the Spiritual Antennas that he had set up outside was quite impressive.

Ma Xiaotao responded softly, "I was held back by something."

"How do you feel, sister? Have the powers of darkness inside your body given you any backlash?" Huo Yuhao asked her sincerely as he hurriedly walked over to her side.

Ma Xiaotao shook her head and said, "After you helped me dispel those powers of darkness last night, they have been stubbornly regenerating, but they will need at least three days to return to their initial levels. But as long as I control my own emotions and my state of mind, I should be able to hold off for roughly seven days. That also means that as long as you treat me within seven days, I will be able to maintain my mental clarity. Of course, the prerequisite is that I can't fight with my full strength. Otherwise, if I expend too much soul power, those powers of darkness will regenerate a lot faster as my soul power recovers. When that happens, I will really need you to treat me every day."

Huo Yuhao tilted his head and said, "Treating you every day is not a problem, because I'm not planning to separate from you, anyway. I can help you suppress all that darkness, sister. I almost have enough soul power now; once I become a Soul Sage, and I have my martial soul true body, I might not even need medicines or anything to completely dispel the evil fire in your body."

Ma Xiaotao glanced at him, and a dash of rosiness appeared on her cheeks for no reason. "Let's just stick with medicines."

Huo Yuhao's vision was great, but he didn't notice the changes on Ma Xiaotao's face. He grasped her hands and began to release his aura of Ultimate Ice into Ma Xiaotao's body to guide her soul power.

Ma Xiaotao had rested for the entire day, and she seemed to have completely restored her consciousness and state of mind. She worked together with Huo Yuhao this time, and they had a far easier time dispelling and suppressing those powers of darkness inside her body.

Towards the end, Huo Yuhao could even be sure that as long as he stayed by her side and helped her suppress her powers of darkness every day, those problems within her body wouldn't bother her again. Of course, this would only treat her symptoms, and not the root cause of the problem.

Ma Xiaotao allowed him to treat her in silence. She couldn't see as clearly as Huo Yuhao could in the darkness of the night, but she was a powerful Soul Douluo, so nighttime wasn't that much different from daytime for her.

Ma Xiaotao stared at Huo Yuhao, who had become a lot taller than her... he was still a little boy back then, but he had transformed into a handsome youth. Her eyes gradually became gentle and tender, but mournful looks flashed deep within from time to time. It was clear that her emotions weren't calm and settled at this moment.

"Oh, we're done. Sister, I've helped you suppress those powers of evil successfully, and today's results are better than yesterday's. Take a look... how do you feel?"

Ma Xiaotao nodded and said, "I don't have to feel; there's no problem at all. You must be here to save all those hostages, right?"

Huo Yuhao answered, "Yes. I'm not the only one here; almost the entire Tang Sect is here this time."

"The Tang Sect? Oh, I remember now... they must be the people who participated in the big tournament not too long ago." Ma Xiaotao seemed to have recalled everything that had happened recently.

Huo Yuhao nodded and confirmed, "Yes."